

HCS HBs 2234 & 1985-- DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER ED WEBSITE

SPONSOR: Dohrman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Higher Education to develop, maintain, and operate a website containing information for public and private institutions of higher education in Missouri directing students to resources including, but not limited to, academic programs, financial aid, and how courses may be transferred from one institution of higher education to another. The information on the website must be made available to the public and must be accessible from various devices including, but not limited to, computers, tablets, and other electronic communication devices. Inclusion of institution information on the website is voluntary, and institutions of higher education may elect to have institutional information included on the website by notifying the department.

This bill requires the Department of Higher Education to establish and operate a public website, with a searchable database, that contains course transfer information.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that people can't currently find transfer information easily. This bill would create an opportunity to increase knowledge on transferability, academic programs, financial aid, and other topics.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dohrman; Missouri Department Of Higher Education; Brenda Selman, University Of Missouri; and Paul Wagner, Council On Public Higher Education.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.