

HB 97 -- VISITING SCHOLARS CERTIFICATE

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill will allow the State Board of Education to grant an initial visiting scholar certificate as a license to teach in public schools. The applicant must be employed in a content area in which the individual has an academic degree or professional experience. He or she may only teach classes for ninth grade or higher and the hiring school district must verify that the applicant will be employed as part of a business-education partnership initiative designed to build career pathways systems for students. The certificate will last for one year and the applicant can renew it a maximum of two times if certain requirements, as described within the bill, are met.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is an excellent chance for people to give back to their communities. It's difficult to get some visiting scholars into the salary schedule but the more difficult aspect is getting them certified right away. This is an excellent idea to help bring in labor people into the school and community. There are a lot of students who aren't going to college and this can help introduce them to something else such as the building trades.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Dan Clemens, North Kansas City School District; Dr. Peter Stiepleman, Columbia School District; School Administrators Coalition; Missouri School Board Association; Linda Rollo, Alliance For Childhood Education; Missouri National Education Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City; Missouri Association For Career and Technical Education; Lindsay Haymes, Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce; Mary Armstrong, Aft Missouri & Aft St. Louis, Local 420; and Melissa Boyd.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.