

HB 257 -- ACCELERATION FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS

SPONSOR: Pfautsch

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules - Administrative Oversight by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill requires each school district to establish an acceleration policy for any student meeting specified requirements.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that some schools do have such policies but many do not. We should have the opportunity for our students to be accelerated if it is in their best interests. Currently, some of the opportunities such students have are at the whims of particular administrators, which is not always good for the student. This is an important step. Acceleration policies differ based on the different districts' needs and this bill allows them to maintain policies based on their specific needs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pfautsch; Missouri Education Reform Council; Missouri National Education Association; AFT St. Louis Local 420; Lenae Lazzelle, Gifted Association of Missouri, Gifted Advisory Council, and Director of Gifted Education for Springfield Public Schools; and Kristen Hilty.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.