

HCS HB 324 -- TRUANCY

SPONSOR: Neely

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill prohibits the school board of any school district from suspending any pupil out of school for truancy.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that it's silly to suspend kids for truancy. It is similar to incarcerating someone for not paying child support.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Neely.

OPPONENTS: Opponents say this bill will take away authority from local school boards. If a school does not report absences it's really ignoring child abuse. It should be left to the local school boards.

Testifying for the bill was Mary Armstrong, Aft Missouri & Aft St. Louis, Local 420.