

HB 469 -- HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE

SPONSOR: Gannon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 1 with 1 present.

This bill provides a high school equivalency certificate applicant with the opportunity of voluntarily submitting his or her contact information for the purposes of evaluating college and career placement rates of certificate applicants.

This bill, subject to appropriations, will also require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to subsidize the examination fee for first-time exam takers.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that having a high school diploma or equivalent credential makes a substantial difference in one's lifetime earning potential. It will also increase a person's chances of having a job.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Gannon; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; JG Foundation; and School Administrators Coalition.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.