

HCS HB 984 -- ALLAN PURDY WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Kendrick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute establishes the "Allan Purdy Work-Study Program." The program will be administered by the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. Any resident of the state enrolled or accepted for enrollment at any accredited two-year or four-year institution of higher education as an undergraduate may qualify for participation in the program.

Funds appropriated to the work-study program must be used to provide a work-study program of employment of resident students in good standing with his or her institution that are directly under the control of the institution in which the student is enrolled or in positions with nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, or for-profit organization with which the institution may execute student employment contracts.

Funds may also be used by the coordinating board in conjunction with and to supplement funds for current job opportunities or to supplement or match funds made available through any other public or private program for financial assistance, as specified in the bill. Sixty percent of funds will be allocated based on financial need and 40% may be allocated to students based on other criteria.

This bill contains a sunset provision.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is similar to the federal work study program, but is more flexible in that it allows off campus employment and internships. Best practices from other states have been adopted in the bill. The bill may prevent job losses to other states as many work study students retain full time employment after graduation with the organization where they participated in work study. The bill is named after a pioneer in financial aid programs who served in World War II and helped to develop initial financial aid programs to assist veterans in the period prior to the passage of the federal GI Bill.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Kendrick; Missouri Department of Higher Education; Gena Boling, University of Missouri Office of Financial Aid; and the Missouri Association of Student Financial Aid.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.