

HB 1216 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Curtman

This bill requires the Joint Committee on Education to undertake additional duties related to the oversight of the state educational system.

The committee must contain, as members, the chair of the Missouri Senate Budget and Education committees, respectively. The House of Representatives members must include the chairs of the Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education committees, respectively.

The committee must meet at least quarterly and perform certain duties. The board must provide the State Board of Education with input on any candidates for the Office of the Commissioner of Education in the event of a vacancy in such office. The board must review policies for alignment to the Missouri Constitution and statutes and vote on and monitor policies developed by the board. It must also review the progress of education in the state's public schools and reports from the Commissioner of Education.

The committee must hold public hearings when the board considers the revision or modification of performance measures. The joint committee must also maintain a standing committee. Such standing committee will review and evaluate grant applications and financial commitments made on behalf of the state while also developing a comprehensive methodology for auditing and monitoring, as specified in the bill.

The joint committee must also maintain an independent or commercial Institutional Review Board (IRB) to protect the rights and personal privacy of individuals, and maintain other interests of the public, including reviewing research proposals, as specified in the bill. The IRB board will be composed of at least five members. Such members must not be of the same profession and must have a diversity of experience and expertise.