

HCS SCS SBs 300 & 306 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Sater (Redmon)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 2.

STATE SCHOOL AID FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

This bill excludes funds designated by taxpayers in an urban district as local early childhood education funds from the local tax revenue calculation used to provide funding to charter schools that have declared themselves as a local educational agency (Section 160.415, RSMo).

This is the same as HB 254 (2017).

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

This bill changes the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MOVIP) to "The Missouri Course Access Program" (MCAP) and allows any eligible K-12 student to enroll in MCAP courses, to be paid by the school district or charter school, if the student is enrolled full-time in a public school or public charter school and has attended such school for at least one semester immediate prior and the student has received approval from his or her school principal as specified in the bill. Children who have newly moved into the district or children of active military parents serving out of state are exempt from the one semester attendance requirement.

The school district or charter school must pay the costs of the course to the content provider directly on a pro rata monthly basis and as specified in the bill. Payment for a full-time virtual school student shall not exceed the state adequacy target, unless the student receives additional federal or state aid.

Providers must monitor student success and engagement of students enrolled in their program, report information to the school district or charter school, and make recommendations to the school district or charter school regarding the student's enrollment in the program. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will continuously monitor approved providers and courses.

In addition, DESE must establish an authorization process for course or full-time virtual school providers, ensure that comprehensive courses of study align with state academic standards, provide a written explanation to any course or full-time virtual

school providers within 30 days of a denied authorization, publish information regarding the process established in this bill, and submit an annual report to the Joint Committee on Education that includes specified information (Sections 161.669, 161.670, and 167.121).

This is similar to SCS HCS HB 138 (2017).

SEVEN-DIRECTOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Currently, the law requires the treasurer of a seven-director school district, when entering into a bond to the state, to do so with two or more sureties. This bill authorizes the treasurer to use one or more sureties (Section 162.401).

This is the same as HB 587 and SB 300 (2017).

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

This bill modifies the initial terms of directors elected to the Kansas City Public Schools school board in 2019, such that the terms of office of directors are staggered. One at-large director and the directors of subdistricts one, three, and five shall be elected to an initial two-year term. The other at-large director and the directors of subdistricts two and four will be elected to a four-year term. In subsequent elections, all directors will be elected to four-year terms (Section 162.492).

This is similar to SB 93 and HB 587 (2017).

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Currently, a school district is authorized to create and enter into a partnership with area career centers, comprehensive high schools, industry, and businesses to develop and implement a pathway for students to: enroll in a program of career and technical education while in high school participate and complete an internship or apprenticeship during their final year of high school obtain the industry certification or credentials applicable to their program or career and technical education and internship or apprenticeship.

This bill allows a school district to rely on technical coursework and skills assessments developed for industry-recognized certificates and credentials. The bill requires the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council to annually review, update, approve, and recommend a list of industry certifications, state-issued professional licenses, and occupational competency assessments. A school district may use the list as a resource in establishing programs of study that meet their regional workforce

needs under Section 170.029.

This bill also modifies the composition of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council by adding the Director of the Department of Economic Development, or his or her designee (Sections 162.1115, 170.028, and 178.550).

This is the same as HB 253 (2017).

SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX ASSESSMENTS

This bill specifies that an increase in property value will be considered new construction and improvements when determining the school district's tax rate each year (Section 164.011).

VISITING SCHOLARS CERTIFICATE

This bill will allow the State Board of Education (SBE) to grant an initial visiting scholar certificate as a license to teach in public schools. The applicant must be employed in a content area in which the individual has an academic degree or professional experience. He or she may only teach classes for ninth grade or higher and the hiring school district must verify that the applicant will be employed as part of a business-education partnership initiative designed to build career pathways systems for students. The certificate will last for one year and the applicant can renew it a maximum of two times if certain requirements, as described within the bill, are met (Section 168.021).

This is the same as HB 97 (2017).

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREE

By July 1, 2018, DESE must develop a high school graduation policy that allows a student to fulfill one unit of academic credit with a district-approved computer science course for any science unit required for high school graduation (Section 170.018).

This is the same as HB 948 (2017).

This bill contains an emergency clause and a delayed effective date.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill requires schools to have one surety. The requirement to have two or more came about in the 1960s and the surety bond industry has changed quite a bit since that time. School districts don't need the redundant coverage or costs or the threat of inadvertent violation of the law.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Sater; Missouri United School Insurance Council; Kansas City 33 School District; Missouri School Board Association; and the Missouri Council of School Administrators.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.