

HCS SB 434 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Sater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 9 to 2. 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).

SCHOOL DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Under current law, school districts are required to allocate 1% of moneys received under the school foundation formula to the professional development committee of the district. This bill specifies that school districts may, by majority vote of the school board, allocate less than 1% but no less than .5% when such district is appropriated less than 25% of the allowable costs of providing pupil transportation under the school foundation formula. A school district may appropriate money in such manner until the end of fiscal year 2023.

This is the same as SB 434 (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).

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.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow for school districts to allocate additional funding for transportation costs. State funding for such costs continues to decrease and some school districts have buses that travel 1700 miles each school day.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Sater and the Missouri School Administrators Coalition.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that there should be an active participation allowed to select priorities from the professional development committees. In addition, we should be looking at how to resolve the state's commitment to transporting pupils.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri National Education Association.