

HCS SB 478 -- INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Silvey (Barnes)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Government Oversight by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill provides that in the event of a breach of data maintained in an electronic form that includes personal information of a student, the school district shall notify the parent or legal guardian of the affected student. Notification of the breach shall also be sent to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the State Auditor.

The bill also changes the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MOVIP) to "The Missouri Course Access Program" (MCAP) and allows any K-12 student to enroll in MCAP courses, to be paid by the school district or charter school, if the student is enrolled in a school district or charter school and has attended such school for at least one semester immediately prior and the course or its substantial equivalent is not available in the school district or charter school or there is a scheduling conflict. A student that is enrolled in the MCAP and does not meet the requirements for the costs to be paid by the district or charter school must pay the costs for any course directly to the MCAP. The State Board of Education will provide an easily accessible link for course vendors on the MCAP website, allows anyone to submit courses for approval, and requires vendors to accept monthly payments for students enrolled in their courses. The student's home district is required to pay the costs associated with MCAP courses up to the equivalent of a full time student, under specified conditions. The bill does not impede home school contracting for Internet classes and does not require any school district, charter school, or the state to provide computers or Internet access to students.

The bill modifies the terms in office for directors of the Kansas City Public Schools school board so that beginning in 2019, there will be an initial two year term for four members, and a four year term for three specified members and, thereafter, four year terms for all members resulting in staggered elections for board members. Currently, all other school districts have staggered elections so that the entire board is not up for election in any given year.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is a good transparency measure that will help parents respond to identity theft and similar crimes.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Silvey; Missouri National Education Association; Concerned Women for America of Missouri; Mary Byrne; Office of the Missouri State Auditor; and Becky Lottmann, ACLA.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they are happy to provide information to the committee.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri National Education Association.