

HCS HB 1370 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Government Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill requires every school district and charter school to maintain an accountability portal for the public. By September 1, 2019 each public school district and charter school must develop, maintain, and make available all publicly available budget, income, expenditure, and disbursement information for the current fiscal year. This budget information will be identical to the same financial information given to the Department of Education. The data on the portal must be updated quarterly and remain available for at least 10 years.

Additionally, the bill requires, by January 1, 2019, that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) create a template for voluntary use by any school district needing assistance in developing an accountability portal. In the event that a school district or charter school does not maintain a website, the information must be maintained through DESE.

This bill is similar to HB 263 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help citizens look up basic financial information on their school district and enable them to ask questions at board meetings or gain additional information from the department.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sommer and the Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.