

HCS HB 1528 -- CIVICS ACHIEVEMENT EXAMINATION

SPONSOR: Dohrman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 9 to 3.

This bill requires any student attending a public institution of higher education to score at least 70% on the Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination as a condition of graduation. The exam shall consist of 50 to 100 questions similar to the questions in the United States citizenship exam.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say this bill reinforces and helps implement the requirements of Section 170.011.3, RSMo, which requires the study of the Constitution, American history, and American civics.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dohrman and Robin Blackburn.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say private institutions should not be required to comply with this mandate.

Testifying against the bill was Independent Colleges And Universities of Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it will be costly to develop and implement a new test in time to have students comply with this requirement beginning with the bill's effective date of August 28, 2018. It would be better to delay implementation of the requirements imposed by the bill by a year or two to provide time to incorporate the bill's requirements into a test already being administered.

Testifying on the bill was Paul Wagner, Council on Public Higher Education.