

HB 1665 -- VISITING SCHOLARS CERTIFICATE

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Vote "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill allows the State Board of Education 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.

This bill is the same as HB 97 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will expand the pool of qualified instructors for business-education career pathways programs. Qualified, experienced experts may be deterred or delayed from participating if they are required to obtain a teacher's certificate. This bill will lower the barriers to participation for such experts.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri Chamber Of Commerce; Align; Bill Nicely, Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri National Education Association; School Administrators Coalition; Missouri Education Reform Council; Kids Win Missouri; Cooperating School Districts Of Greater Kansas City; Missouri Association For Career & Technical Education; and the Ford Motor Company.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.