

HCS HB 2129 -- ORGAN DONATION EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Cookson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by vote of 12 to 1.

This bill requires that beginning in school year 2019-20 students in public or charter high schools shall receive 30 minutes of instruction providing information on decisions about organ, eye, and tissue donation before graduation. Schools shall include the instruction in any existing curriculum for a subject selected by the school. Instruction shall be based on a program established by Gift of Life, Inc, or a nationally recognized program that provides unbiased information on organ, eye, and tissue donation.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that families need information about organ donation and a potential donor's wishes long before they are put in the position of making a donation decision due to the unexpected death of a potential donor. This bill will help ensure more people learn about organ donation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cookson; Kim Harbor, Gift of Life; Tara Skaggs, Mid-America Transplant; Donna S. Boll; Kevin Lee, Mid-American Transplant; Missouri Education Reform Council; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education would provide guidance and resources for districts to fulfill this requirement.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.