

HB 172 -- BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY WEEK

SPONSOR: Washington

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill designates the third week in September as "Historically Black College and University Week," and encourages citizens to observe the week with appropriate events and activities recognizing the importance of historically black colleges and universities.

This bill is the same as HB 1697 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Missouri has two excellent HBCUs and Lincoln University is one of the oldest institutions in the state, with many famous graduates and excellent programs including journalism and extension. Harris Stowe is Missouri's second HBCU, also providing an excellent education and this bill will help celebrate the history and maintain public awareness of these institutions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Washington; Latonia Collins Smith, Harris-Stowe State University; and Dr. Marcus Chenay, Lincoln University.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.