

HCS HB 604 -- SCHOOL TURNAROUND ACT

SPONSOR: Henderson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 3.

This bill establishes that Sections 161.1080 to 161.1130, RSMo shall be known as the "School Turnaround Act."

The bill states beginning September 1, 2020 and subject to appropriations, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall use an outcome-based measure to set criteria for the designation of schools in need of intervention and specifies a time line for the initial remedial year (Sections 161.1090 and 161.1095).

The bill specifies that before August 30, 2020, the department must identify two or more approved independent school turnaround experts of which schools in need of intervention may partner.

The bill specifies that the department shall award contracts to independent school turnaround experts and that governing boards shall not be required to pay independent school turnaround experts.

The bill also establishes the "School Turnaround Fund" for the payment of contracts (Section 161.1105).

The bill specifies that the department shall review school turnaround plans within 30 days of submission. Criteria for approval is specified in the bill as well as an appeal process.

The bill establishes the "School Intervention Fund," to fund interventions identified in approved school turnaround plans (Section 161.1110).

The bill specifies that a school in need of intervention that does not meet the exit criteria within three school years may petition the department for an extension to continue school improvement efforts for up to two years (Section 161.1115).

The bill, requires that before November 30, 2021, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall report to the Joint Committee on Education on the implementation of the School Turnaround Act (Section 161.1125).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that schools and children are our most

precious resource and if the current structure is failing, we need more options beyond school takeovers and lack of local control. This bill will provide high accountability with high local buy in. Schools and the state will pay for success because if schools don't turn around the independent school turnaround experts will lose money.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Henderson and Trent Kaufman, Education Direction.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.