

HCS HB 739 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (Miller)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

This bill adds school personnel, contractors, and volunteers that establish relationships through a school or school activity to the definition of those responsible for the care, custody, and control of a child for certain sections of statutes relating to child abuse as outlined in the bill (Section 210.110, RSMo).

This bill requires full disclosure between school districts about a former employee when requested, specifically regarding any confirmed violation of a board policy related to abusive behavior toward a student. Additionally, any school, before offering employment, must contact the district or charter school that previously employed the prospective hire and request information (Section 162.068).

The bill increases the training hours for initial school board members from 16 to 18 hours and 30 minutes, and further requires that the training include two hours and 30 minutes of sexual harassment training. Additionally, returning board members must take at least one hour of refresher training annually (Section 162.203).

The bill defines "screened volunteer" and requires a criminal background check to be conducted on any screened volunteer before they are left alone with a student or have access to student records (Section 168.133).

This bill defines "sexual harassment" and requires that schools provide age appropriate sexual harassment training to students in grades six and up. The training will be developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Section 170.045).

The bill modifies the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law, to allow for sharing of records between schools for employees, as specified in the bill (Section 610.021).