

HCS HB 836 -- ADULT STUDENT BACKGROUND CHECK

SPONSOR: Rehder

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 9 to 0.

This bill requires criminal background checks to be conducted on any person who is 18 years of age or older, who is not counted by the district for purposes of average daily attendance, and who requests enrollment in a course that takes place on school property during regular school hours.

A person shall be prohibited from enrolling in such a course if he or she has plead guilty to, or been convicted of, any crime or offense which would currently prevent the issuance of a teaching certificate. The background check shall be conducted before the person enrolls in the course (Section 168.071, RSMo).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that often adult students will be in a blended classroom while attending a career tech center. Currently, there is no upfront background check on these adult students. Supporters agree that there is a need for education, but there should be alternatives for those who do not qualify due to a failed background check.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Rehder.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.