

HCS HB 957 -- SPECIAL EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT

SPONSOR: Pike

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.

Currently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will reimburse school districts for the costs of special education for high-needs children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) exceeding three times the current expenditure per average daily attendance as calculated on the district annual secretary of the board report for the year in which the expenditures are claimed. This bill states that any money reimbursed to a school district, with 500 or less students, is excluded from such calculation.

This bill specifies that a school district shall submit the cost of serving any high-needs student with an IEP to DESE.

This bill is the same as SB 272 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow for school districts to meet the needs for all students, as those with high needs have high costs that often a smaller school district cannot budget. Supporters acknowledge that the High Needs Fund plays a critical role in helping districts pay for special needs students and this bill will alleviate the disproportional impact on smaller districts.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pike; and the Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.