

HB 976 -- VISITING SCHOLAR CERTIFICATES

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" 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 8 to 0.

This bill modifies who may apply to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for a Visiting Scholars Certificate, by allowing applicants with a Masters or Doctoral Degree the opportunity if a minimum of 18 graduate level hours are in the subject being taught.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help districts fill areas of need with candidates that might become future teachers. These candidates address critical vacancies in science and math fields and can also teach dual credit enrollment courses. Teaching is a area of high need in most areas of the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri Council of School Administrators; and Peter Stiepleman, Superintendent.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.