

HCS HB 1024 -- EDUCATION WORK GROUP

SPONSOR: Dogan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to create a work group to develop and recommend rigorous academic performance standards relating to workforce development for students in grades one through 12.

The work group shall consist of 11 members as appointed by the Governor and all meetings for the work group will be open to the public to provide testimony.

The bill requires the work group to develop alternate academic achievement standards for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and employability skills curriculum with details for each outlined in the bill.

These standards and curriculum will be presented to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly, which may adopt or request modifications. The work group will dissolve one year after any requested modifications are made (Section 162.692, RSMo).

The bill requires that superintendents and assistant superintendents must have a contract expressly stating the terms and conditions of employment, and that the contract may not exceed three times the average teacher compensation and benefits for the district (Section 168.203).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is in line with discussions on workforce development and academic standards with the goal of creating a prepared workforce. Supporters note that the purpose of the bill is to help create focused standards that will drive change in schools to meet the needs of employers and provide skills training and academic skills that are important to a modern work environment.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dogan; Missouri National Education Association; JG Circle of Hope; St.Louis Youthbuild; and Kara Corches, Missouri Chamber Of Commerce And Industry.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say currently there are transition coordinators that contact parents and vocational rehab facilities to help students get soft skills and get acquainted with businesses in communities and various skills needed in a 'real' workplace.

Testifying on the bill was Robert Deffenbaugh.