

HCS HB 1139 -- HOME SCHOOL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Baker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 9 to 4 with 1 voting present.

This bill changes the law regarding home school education, by providing an option on the evidence necessary to show that a child is receiving regular instruction.

The bill prohibits the local prosecuting attorney from reviewing home school records without reasonable suspicion of a violation of law. A public school must keep confidential any individually identifiable information about children receiving home school education and parents of such children. The bill also modifies provisions regarding parents providing notice that their children will attend home school.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill provides cleanup language to eliminate the confusion on optional registration which some districts have attempted to mandate. The bill also lessens the academic requirements for home school students by providing an option.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Baker; Al Schmidt, Charyti Jackson, Kim Quon, and Sheryl Schmidt, Families for Home Education; and the Home School Legal Defense Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the reason for the heavy burden on record keeping dates back to the 1980's when there was little data about homeschooling and the Missouri statute served as a model for the nation. Additionally, the removal of the declaration statute is a benefit as this is a rarely used statute.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Family Network.

This bill is similar to HB 2467 (2018).