

HB 1317 -- PROVISIONS FOR GIFTED EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Sommer

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 5 to 3.

This bill requires school districts to establish a state-approved gifted program if 3% or more of the students are determined to be gifted. Districts with average daily attendance of more than 350 students are required to have a teacher certificated to teach gifted education, any teacher providing gifted instruction without a gifted-teaching certificate must participate in six hours per year of professional development regarding gifted services.

This bill is similar to HB 112 (2019), HCS HB 1435 (2018), and HB 1030 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that currently gifted programs are not mandated and the number of districts that offer these programs have decreased. Gifted services are as important as any other special needs and by requiring these programs in districts it will ensure that gifted students will receive educational opportunities. Supporters point out that currently college students receive very little training or education on gifted pupil needs, this bill will ensure that any teacher that provides instruction for gifted programs has additional training.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sommer; Dr. Beth Winton, Advisory Council On Gifted Education; Gifted Association of Missouri; Missouri National Education Association; Childrens Education Council of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that there are concerns that this would require local school districts to shift funds currently being spent without providing any additional funding.

Testifying against the bill was School Administrators Coalition.