

HCS HBs 1774 & 1994 -- INFORMATION PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

SPONSOR: Baker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Career Readiness by a vote of 7 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1774 & 1994.

This bill creates the "Students' Right to Know Act", which, beginning January 1, 2021, requires the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to annually collect and compile specified information to help high school students make more informed decisions about their futures and ensure they are adequately aware of the costs of four-year college and alternative career paths.

This bill also creates the "Informed Student Document Act" and requires the Board for Higher Education to develop an informed student document to include information relating to the institutional grouping, with comparisons to other in-state and out-of-state peer institutions with averages regarding costs, employment, and admissions as specified in the bill.

The bill also requires that a prospective student or the student's parent or legal guardian verify that the document has been read prior to application to the institution. The document is also required to be available on the website of the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development and on the website of each individual institution.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that while counselors already provide a lot of the information outlined in the bill, it would be very beneficial for it to be consolidated in one location. This bill will allow parents and students to make informed decisions regarding the variety of post high school opportunities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Baker and Opportunity Solutions Project.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say many private colleges are one on one and this type of information is readily provided on

a more personal level. While the promotion of careers and future opportunities is very important to counselors, too often the ratio of student to counselor is such that they cannot reach out to all students

Testifying on the bill were D. Scott Penman; Independent Colleges & Universities of Missouri; and Department of Higher Education.