

HCS HB 2151 -- SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 7 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2151.

This bill allows Southeast Missouri State University (SEMO) to have authority to develop a statewide mission in visual and performing arts, computer science, and cybersecurity.

The bill modifies provisions relating to the Board of Governors for SEMO as outlined in the bill.

This bill is similar to HB 1121 (2019).

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 this bill will help the university recruit students interested in the specified programs, and allows Southeast Missouri to be on a similar playing field as other state universities that have similar statewide missions. Supporters also stressed that outlining the Board of Governors is important as this will help ensure members are from areas of the state that will be familiar with Southeast Missouri's needs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; and Southeast Missouri State University.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.