

HB 64 -- SPECIAL EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT

SPONSOR: Pike

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will reimburse school districts for the costs of special education for high-needs children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) exceeding three times the current expenditure per average daily attendance as calculated on the District Annual Secretary of the Board Report for the year in which the expenditures are claimed. This bill states that any money reimbursed to a school district, with 500 or less students, is excluded from such calculation.

This bill specifies that a school district shall submit the cost of serving any high-needs student with an IEP to DESE.

This bill is similar to HB 2544 (2020) and as HCS HB 957 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the current high needs calculation has a negative impact on smaller districts and that this bill will help alleviate that concern. The per pupil expenditure in smaller districts can often be skewed dramatically when one student meets the high need threshold and that has a ripple effect in the next year due to the threshold changing so significantly.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pike; Phyllis Lecuru; Jessica Stuenkel; Jordan Dickey, Brnaugh R-7; Missouri School Boards Association; Missouri National Education Association; Ryan Linn, Brnaugh R-7; and the Missouri Association of School Administrators.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.