

HB 580 -- PUPIL HOME INTERNET ACCESS

SPONSOR: Riggs

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 19 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to submit an annual report to the General Assembly beginning on June 30, 2022. The report will indicate the number of elementary and secondary students who reside in a residence with limited or no access to the Internet. The report shall indicate the total number of pupils statewide and by school district.

This bill is similar to HB 2316 (2020).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that schools with pupils with limited internet access often fail to meet the educational needs of those students. Currently there is not sufficient data to discover where the gaps for substandard internet infrastructure exist and this bill will help pinpoint areas where there is a need for improvement.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Riggs; Missouri State Teachers Association; and Shelly Mantel.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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.