

HCS HB 865 -- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 7 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 865.

This bill provides authorization for any county or city not within a county to levy a property tax to establish an early childhood education board which shall provide childhood education programs or services and professional development and training for providers. The bill limits the levy to \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed valuation on real property and provides sample ballot language. The tax shall not go into effect unless approved by a 4/7ths vote of the qualified voters of such county or city.

Upon the approval of a levy the bill requires that an early childhood education board of directors be established. The board shall consist of seven members with qualifications and structure of the board outlined in the bill. Boards established shall be empowered to establish or operate an early childhood education program or provide for early childhood education services for children five years of age and under, with control and responsibilities outlined in the bill. The board will be determined a "political subdivision" and may impose limitations on children to be served and services to be provided, with the primary goal to expand and improve early childhood education services.

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 is a much needed bill as it provides an opportunity for communities to develop their own early childhood program that will provide a significant impact in their community. This bill will provide an economic benefit twice over, both for the current working generation, and by building a smarter workforce in the future. This bill will potentially help address the 72 counties in Missouri that qualify as a "desert" for childcare.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shields; Kids Win Missouri; and Aligned.

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.