

CCS SB 86 -- SCHOOL DISTRICTS

This bill prohibits the contribution or expenditure of public funds by any school district or charter school or by any officer, employee, or agent of any school district or charter school:

- (1) To support or oppose the nomination or election of any candidate for public office;
- (2) To support or oppose the passage or defeat of any ballot measure;
- (3) To any committee supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures; or
- (4) To pay debts or obligations of any candidate or committee previously incurred for the above purposes.

Any purposeful violation of this bill is punishable as a class four election offense (Section 115.646, RSMo)

The bill modifies language in Section 135.713 relating to the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Program and educational assistance organizations (EAO). The bill caps the amount of tax credits at \$25 million in the first year and \$50 million total. The language also limits the total number of EAOs to 10 and requires that only six may establish their principal place of business within St. Louis City or Jackson, St. Louis, St. Charles and Greene counties. This language limits the amount of qualifying contributions that the State Treasurer can use for administration and marketing to 4%, and creates the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Board with the State Treasurer serving as the chair, one member appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other members as outlined in the bill to assume duties delegated by the State Treasurer relating to the scholarship program. The bill defines "qualifying contribution" for Section 135.712 and excludes from the definition stocks, bonds, and property (Section 115.646).