

HB 1585 -- SHOW-ME DIGITAL HEALTH ACT

SPONSOR: Murphy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 3. Motion to "Do Pass" failed by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 5. Voted to "Reconsider" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1 with 1 voting Present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill creates the "Show-Me Digital Health Act" which will require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop curriculum and provide it to districts by the 2024-25 school year. The curriculum will contain at least one unit of instruction on the responsible use of social media.

The curriculum developed by DESE will include standards, learning activities, resources, and training as outlined in the bill including but not limited to:

- (1) The purpose and acceptable use of various social media platforms;
- (2) Cyberbullying prevention and response;
- (3) Ways to identify online misinformation; and
- (4) The applicability of protections for freedom of speech for online interaction in school settings as provided by DESE to school districts.

School districts must adopt a curriculum similar to the DESE curriculum by the 2024-25 school year for grades three to 12 and provide a plan for professional development for teachers to use the curriculum.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that districts want this type of curriculum so that they can expand beyond a simple 'be nice online' mindset. Developed curriculum will help schools teach digital media awareness across subject areas and will fit into lessons plans and already developed curriculum.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Murphy; Jennell Houts; Crystal Domagalski; Elizabeth Kimball; Jennifer Spencer; Joshua Reed; Kelly Warren; Kristin Eldridge; Maureen Zamenski; Renee Smola; Stacy Turner; Teresa Thompson; Cambria Ernstrom; Carla Valenti; Donna Bone; Gina Castro; Jason Moore; Julie Pfeifer; Julie

Turner; Kim Reed; Kimberly Miller; Kristen Wolf-Cook; Lori Richmeyer; Marcia D Kennedy; Maria Ascrizzi; Jeremy Arthur Kitchen; Jenna Roberson; Alicia Robinson; Arnie C. Dienoff; Rita Lavanchy; Andrew D. Wells, No Left Turn In Education; Missouri School Board Association; Julie Smith; and Missouri Broadcasters Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that funding for this might be a concern and that teaching social media awareness is not the responsibility of the school district. Concerns were raised on who would be determining which content was appropriate or acceptable.

Testifying against the bill were Beth Newman; Holly Tinker; Johanna Beaudean; Ryan J Tinker; Maria Ascrizzi; Lisa L Lennon; Jessica James; Patrick James; Rainah Pray; and Amber Kempf.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say safeguards should be put in place to protect children.

Testifying on the bill was Katie Rash.

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.