

HB 1973 -- SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Gregory (51)

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 10 to 0.

This bill modifies the definition of "school bus" to include the requirement that the bus must be designed to carry more than 10 people. School districts are authorized to use other motor vehicles for the purpose of transporting school children. The State Board of Education may adopt rules and regulations governing the use of the other motor vehicles, but not vehicles operating under the authority of the Department of Revenue's Transportation Network Provision.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will open flexibility for schools to provide transportation in a more economical way. The alternative transportation opportunities will allow for an increased benefit to foster children, homeless students, students working at off-site work based learning opportunities, and for districts that potentially have students living in non-resident locations that might not have a dedicated traditional bus route.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Gregory; Jeanette Thomas; John Jenks, The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; Marisa Hagler; Aligned; Arnie C. Ac Dienoff; Kids Win Missouri; and Trish Donahue, Hopskipdrive, Incorporated.

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.