

HCS SS SCS SBs 681 & 662 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: O'Laughlin (Basye)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" 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 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 681.

"Please see the Summary Sheet for a detailed list of the additional language added to the House Committee Substitute."

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the Senate Perfected version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this language is extremely important as reading is a fundamental skill that is necessary for success in the world. Early detection of dyslexia and other reading difficulties is paramount in order to offer students with as much assistance as possible at the earliest opportunity. This bill will provide school districts with clearer direction and provides the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with much needed authority to develop reading assessments and ensure that reading methods are more standardized.

Testifying for the bill were Senator O'Laughlin; Linda D Batten; Aligned; Amanda Schwent; Jennifer Edwards; Missouri School Boards' Association; Matthew Michelson, Missouri State Teachers' Association; and the Missouri National Education Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the perfected language is an improvement, however there are concerns about the delayed effective date of January 1, 2023 and the lack of local assessments.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Association of School Administrators.

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.