

HB 1183 -- ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Hovis

Currently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to authorize the operation of four adult high schools across the state. This bill transfers such authority to the Department of Social Services and requires each nonprofit organization to submit an annual report to the Department. In addition, the Department shall authorize a fifth adult high school to be located in a county with more than 700,000 but fewer than 800,000 inhabitants, or a contiguous county. When this bill goes into effect, this will apply to Jackson County or an adjacent county.

The Department shall administer funding to the adult high schools, subject to appropriations. For the existing adult high schools, the Department shall maintain authorization for the nonprofit organizations to operate the high school, provided that no more than one organization may be authorized to operate an adult high school in each of the current four locations. An organization may establish satellite campuses for any adult high school it is authorized to operate.

By January 1, 2024, the Department shall select a Missouri-based nonprofit organization to operate the new adult high school, provided the organization meets current law requirements and demonstrates the ability to commit at least \$500,000, rather than \$2 million, for the necessary infrastructure to establish the school. The bill also provides that such organization must limit the administrative fee to no more than 10%.

This bill is similar to HB 447 and SB 199 (2023).