

SS SB 199 -- ADULT HIGH SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Thompson Rehder (Davidson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill modifies provisions regarding adult high schools. 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. In addition, the Department of Social Services shall authorize a fifth adult high school to be located in a 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 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%.

Finally, each nonprofit organization must submit an annual report to the Department of Social Services in addition to other entities as provided in current law.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the this bill will create more opportunities for adults to receive a high school diploma and will help low income individuals elevate themselves.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Thompson Rehder; Mers Goodwill; and Goodwill of Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under "House Testimony on Senate Bills" on the House website.