

HCS HB 1440 -- SCHOOL PROTECTION OFFICER

SPONSOR: Dinkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 2.

Currently, school districts may designate teachers or administrators to be school protection officers.

This bill adds other school personnel to the list of employees a school district may designate as a school protection officer and allows designated school personnel the authority to carry a weapon on school grounds if he or she has obtained a concealed carry endorsement or permit.

This bill is similar to HB 70 (2023).

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would authorize additional school district employees to serve as a school protection officer. Often it is difficult for schools to have enough eligible teachers to serve as a school protection officer so additional staff options are the better fit for that role.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Dinkins; and Missouri Council of School Administrators.

OPPOSERS: 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 Testimony on the bill page on the House website.