

HCS HB 2612 -- TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Byrnes

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Innovation and Technology by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1 with 1 voting present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2612.

This bill creates an educational technology impact advisory council to review the best practices for the use of technology in instruction. The council will consist of no more than 25 members appointed by the Commission of Education including stakeholders from education and medical professionals. Specific items and information to be covered as they relate to technology and education are specified in the bill.

The council must meet four times per year, with the first meeting to be held by December 1, 2024, and must have at least three additional meetings before the committee submits a summary of the council's actions and recommendations before July 1, 2025.

The summary, along with policy proposals and recommendations shall be presented in a public hearing to the State Board of Education and the House and Senate Committees on Education.

The council must meet every two years and update the provided summary to continue to provide best practice and policy suggestions for the impact and inclusion of technology in education.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that technology in schools has changed the manner in which students learn. Although it has many benefits, some school districts may rely on technology too much. By middle school, some students lack executive function and many believe technology has a roll in this. This bill would bring together experts to look into best practices for using technology in schools.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Byrnes; Missouri Disability Empowerment Foundation; Missouri NEA; John Grady; Armorvine; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

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 Testimony on the bill page on the House website.