

SCR 23 -- VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Schroer (Pollitt)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This concurrent resolution disapproves and suspends the final order of rulemaking for a rule proposed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education relating to the Virtual Instruction Program.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this resolution is part of the process for the Joint Committee of Administrative Rules to ensure that departments do not have over burdensome or arbitrary rules. This specific rule has three problems and needs to be rewritten. The major problems include a reference to a funding mechanism not stated in the law, a violation of federal law relating to student privacy, and a fiscal note that does not address private costs and is inadequate to reflect actual costs for the public.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Schroer and Lowell Pearson, Stride Learning .

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the concerns for student privacy could be addressed with an amendment providing clarity, that the fiscal note only reflects the additional costs that the rule creates rather than the costs that the legislation imposes, and that the current plain language of the statute indicates that funding is based on the attendance calculation and that the rule merely reflects the statute.

Testifying in person on the bill was Kari Monsees, Missouri Department Of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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.