

HCS HB 220 -- VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Lewis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 17 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 220.

This bill specifies that any virtual school or program that is part of the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program may administer any statewide assessment virtually.

The bill outlines requirements for such virtual assessments, excluding college readiness or workforce readiness assessments including the monitoring of students via a camera and the maintaining of a student-to-proctor ratio that is targeted at 10-1 or lower (Section 161.670 RSMo).

Currently, school districts with an average daily attendance of 350 or less students qualify for additional funding. This bill removes from such average daily attendance count any nonresident students enrolled in the virtual school program in such school districts (Section 163.044).

This bill is similar to SB 1049 and HB 1820 (2024).

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 the small school grant exemption will allow for some schools that currently participate to continue to do so without worry that they will lose state funding. Security is important for these tests and currently there are hurdles to in person testing, this would help with those security measures.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Lewis; ACCEL; Parents For Public School Options; Stride, Inc.; and Brent Hemphill, Connections Academy.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that within the Department there would be protocols established with the remote testing vendor and there are some schools that may be negatively impacted for the small school grant.

Testifying in person on the bill was Perry Gorrell, 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.