

HCS HB 248 -- DRIVER EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Reedy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 19 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 248.

This bill creates the "Missouri Integrated Safe Driving Program" and provides that the Program will inform pupils about requirements for obtaining driving permits, emphasis on the knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills necessary to safely operate a vehicle, instruct on distracted driving and traffic stops, and provide data on driver safety and risky behavior.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will receive and vet lessons from districts and professional organizations that will integrate the tenants of the safe driving program into courses that students are taking. Beginning in the 2026-27 school year districts can adopt a plan to implement and use lessons.

The instruction does not require physical operation of a vehicle and the bill does not prohibit schools from offering additional driver education courses.

This bill is the similar to HB 1688 (2024), HB 603 (2023) and HCS HB 2745 (2022).

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 many studies have been done and there is an increase in teen accidents and deaths when the teen hasn't received proper driving instruction. The current fiscal note is very high and may be because there is concern from districts that they may have to provide a certified driving instructor. Surrounding states require drivers instruction and in Missouri many aren't getting license until later in life due to the difficulty without proper instruction.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Reedy; Missouri State Teachers Association; ABATE for Missouri; Dean Trachsel, Auto Club of Missouri (AAA); Deanna Rhodes-Widmer; Allyn Workman, Missouri Driver Safety Education Association (Modsea);

Steve Blakley, Msta & Rolla Public Schools; Joe Wider, Freedom of Roadriders, Inc.; Nicholas Chabarria, Automobile Club of Missouri (AAA); David Kunce, Auto Club Enterprises (AAA - Auto Club of Missouri); Missouri Insurance Coalition; and Arnie 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.