

HCS HB 267 -- TEACHER EXTERNSHIPS

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 18 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Consent and Procedure by a vote of 7 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 267.

This bill repeals the sunset provision for the teacher externship program that expired August 28th, 2024.

Current statute allows for any person who is receiving benefits from the teacher retirement system to substitute teach on a part-time basis without losing their retirement benefit. This work exemption expires June 30, 2025.

The bill extends the current exemption to 2030.

This bill is the same as HB 1945 (2024) and the HCS includes HB 1039 (2025).

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 this was an outstanding program that provides teachers the opportunity to learn about a variety of fields outside of education and how what they teach can be used in the business community. Externships provide a way to help teachers develop soft skills and are useful for rural Missouri to allow teachers to work outside of the community and bring back new viewpoints. The only drawback is that teachers may not come back to the school if they find an occupation outside of education.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Shields; Missouri State Teachers Association; Aligned; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Kansas City Public School District; Missouri School Boards' Association; and Missouri NEA.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the program is still ready to go it has just been suspended because of the sunset, but

if legislation extends the program the Department would be able to have externships up and going.

Testifying in person on the bill was Perry Gorrell, DESE.

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.