

HB 442 -- HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID LETTERS

SPONSOR: Smith (074)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development by a vote of 13 to 1.

This bill establishes the "College Admission and Financial Aid Letter Consistency Task Force" with the purpose of developing standardized forms for public colleges and universities to use for admission letters and student aid award letters.

The Task Force will be comprised of 15 members, appointed as specified in the bill, before October 1, 2025. The Task Force will develop admission letters and financial aid letters to be used by all public colleges and universities that include the information provided by the bill.

The Task Force will submit a report to the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Joint Committee on Education, and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education before January 1, 2026, at which time the Task Force will dissolve.

This bill is similar to HB 2637 (2024).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow important information to be provided to parents of college kids and to students entering college. Having standardized forms and guidance on what to look for on college admission letters would be a great benefit.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Smith; The Associated Students of the University of Missouri; John Bowman, Naacp St Louis County; and Missouri National Education Association.

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.