

HCS HB 1197 -- PRIVATE SCHOOL IMMUNITY FROM CERTAIN CIVIL LIABILITY

SPONSOR: Baker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 6 to 1 with 1 voting present.

This bill defines "multiple-occupancy restroom or changing area" and limits civil liability for private schools that establish such restrooms and changing areas for the exclusive use of males or females. The bill prohibits political subdivisions from adopting any ordinance, rule, or regulation prohibiting private schools from establishing multiple-occupancy restrooms and requires such entities to pay for attorney fees and costs incurred by a private school for a valid defense.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

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 private schools are also religious in nature and should not be expected to violate a deeply held religious belief, and that this bill seeks to offer some protection against that.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Baker; David Humphreys; and Arnie C. 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.