

HCS HB 1365 -- SCHOOL BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS

SPONSOR: Jacobs

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 19 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1365.

This bill defines "building-level administrator" as a school official who supervises or evaluates other licensed staff. The bill provides schools with direction on contracts for building-level administrators, including for renewal and nonrenewal notice by March 1st in the year the contract would expire. An administrator whose contract is renewed must accept or reject the contract within 15 business days after receiving the contract.

Administrator contracts cannot be nonrenewed without the administrator having at least one evaluation and building-level administrators that have been in the district for at least five years must be provided with written cause for a nonrenewal. Cause for nonrenewal includes unsatisfactory performance on an annual evaluation, violation of school policy or State law, or conduct detrimental to the operation of the school. An administrator with five years of service in the district that receives a nonrenewal has specified rights, as outlined in the bill, including the right to a hearing and an appeal.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this is a smart bill on many levels as it provides educators with due process rights. Many statistics indicate that good administrators have a direct impact on teacher climate and student success. This provides some security to administration that are doing things right even if they might run afoul of a board member or have a losing sports season.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Jacobs; Deborah J. Hill, Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals; Stacey D. Fick, Maesp; Brandi Benz, Maesp; Missouri National Education Association; and Missouri State Teachers Association.

OPPOSERS: 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.