

HCS HB 1516 -- VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Hurlbert

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 6.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1516.

This bill provides adults over 21 years of age without a high school diploma or equivalence certificate with the opportunity to enroll in a state approved virtual course or full-time virtual program offered by the adult student's resident district or public institution of higher education.

The bill allows the adult student to enroll in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program established under Section 161.670, RSMo. and the program will derive money from the state adequacy target for completed courses in an amount equal to 14% of the state adequacy target(SAT) with a cap set at the SAT.

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 program is beneficial to adults that have not received a high school diploma. This bill would provide security to online service providers to ensure that anticipated payments for adults taking courses would be paid. The virtual program would be good for adults that need flexibility in their learning.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Hurlbert and Graduation Alliance.

OPPOSITION: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the language in the bill is not narrowly tailored and anyone would be eligible to enroll which opens the program up to over 400,000 adults in Missouri. This would be a huge impact on the budget and there are already programs that offer opportunities for adult learners at a much lower price.

Testifying in person on the bill were Missouri NEA; 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.