

HCS HB 3239 -- ADULT EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Hurlbert

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 7. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 7 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 3239.

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.

Program providers will receive a monthly payment from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in an amount equal to 14% of the state adequacy target for each successfully passed course, provided that the state money is in excess of the constitutionally required minimum public school funding. The bill caps the program at \$4 million.

Districts will not be responsible for reporting adult student's information as required under Sections 160.522 or 161.670. (Section 161.672)

The bill modifies the "Workforce Diploma Program" to remove a qualification process for approval and redirects the program to the adult virtual program providers authorized under Section 161.672. Additionally, the bill repeals the "Workforce Diploma Program Fund" and the sunset provision of the program.

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 will expand access to accredited programs for obtaining a high school diploma. The bill uses the already existing program for workforce diploma and joins it with the virtual school Mo Cap program. A large number

of the graduates of this program are women with children at home and having the option to do the program virtually will benefit them greatly.

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

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.