



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1627		DATE: 3/10/2026	
COMMITTEE: Higher Education and Workforce Development			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: PERRY GORRELL		PHONE NUMBER: 573-751-1394	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION		TITLE: CHIEF OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS	
ADDRESS: 205 JEFFERSON STREET			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 12:00 AM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 11:57 PM	

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I am Opposed to creating yet another Council and Commission.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 3/10/2026 7:49 AM

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HB 1627 significantly restructures the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council in ways that reduce transparency and diminish educator participation while expanding representation from business interests.

The bill increases the number of members drawn from business and commerce while leaving educator representation limited. Career and technical education programs exist primarily within public schools and community colleges, and educators are responsible for implementing and maintaining these programs.

Reducing the relative voice of educators in favor of additional industry representatives risks shifting the council away from educational quality and toward purely workforce-driven considerations.

Additionally, the bill reduces the required number of annual meetings from four to two. Career and technical education programs operate statewide across numerous districts and institutions.

Cutting the council’s required meeting frequency in half weakens opportunities for oversight, collaboration, and program evaluation.

Most concerning, HB 1627 removes current statutory requirements that the advisory council provide annual reporting regarding the development, implementation, and administration of career and technical education funding. Eliminating these reporting provisions reduces transparency and removes a mechanism through which the public and policymakers can monitor the stewardship of public education funds.

Career and technical education is an essential component of Missouri’s education system. Any restructuring of its advisory oversight should strengthen transparency, educator participation, and accountability—not diminish them.