

HCS SCS SB 945 and SB 803 and SB 1257 -- SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Gibbons (Moore)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Education by a vote of 22 to 0.

This substitute requires the State Board of Education to encourage school districts to adopt service-learning programs to foster academic achievement, civic engagement, and character development. The state board will, upon request, provide technical assistance and help in locating financial resources for teachers developing service-learning programs and projects. These projects may be counted for credit in courses for high school graduation and may be used at any grade level to address state educational standards, where appropriate.

The substitute also prohibits students who have been expelled for safe school violations from being counted as dropouts for accreditation purposes. The juvenile court will have concurrent jurisdiction with municipal courts on curfew violations by children. The Division of Family Services is permitted to interview possible victims of child abuse at the school or child care center if the alleged abuse did not occur on that property. This provision contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROponents: Supporters say that service learning contributes to academic achievement and character. School districts should not suffer adverse consequences for expelling students who threaten school safety. The law on interviewing a possible child abuse victim was revised last year with an unintentional consequence, and it needs to be corrected to let children be interviewed without unnecessary disruption to their lives.

Testifying for SB 945 were Senator Gibbons; Missouri National Education Association; Schools Administrators Coalition; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri School Boards Association; and Missouri Service Learning Advisory Council. Testifying for SB 803 were Senator Gross; Missouri National Education Association; Schools Administrators Coalition; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri School Boards Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City; Department of Social Services; and Missouri Council for Children at Risk. Testifying for SB 1257 were Senator Days; Missouri National Education Association; Schools Administrators Coalition; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri School Boards Association; Normandy School District; and Cooperating School Districts of

Greater Kansas City.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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