

HCS HB 1305 -- EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN HIGH SCHOOL COURSES AND TESTS

SPONSOR: Muschany (Day)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute allows school districts to exempt any high school student who transfers into the state from the statutory requirement for the state and federal government course and the exam on the Missouri Constitution upon acceptable documentation that the student has successfully completed the requirements in another state. Obsolete provisions are deleted regarding text selection and willful neglect of the statute being a cause for termination.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that many states require high school students to pass a state constitution exam or take a state government course prior to graduation. There are many circumstances where students of military families have met the requirements in another state before moving to Missouri and then must also meet our state requirements in order to graduate. The bill will ease the transition of the student into the school system and remove a burden on both the student and his or her family.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Day; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri School Boards' Association; Penney Rector, School Administrators Coalition; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.