

HB 1678 -- INTERSTATE COMPACT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR
MILITARY CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Day

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on
Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill authorizes Missouri to enter into the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and establishes the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact becomes effective upon its adoption by 10 states. Military children include the kindergarten through twelfth-grade children of active duty members of the armed services including the National Guard and the reserve, as well as the children of members who die while on active duty, retire, or are medically discharged for a period of one year afterward. The compact covers issues including facilitation of enrollment, both in classes and extracurricular activities; placement; graduation; and information-sharing. The commission is made up of one voting member from each participating state. The duties of the commission include dispute resolution between member states, enforcing the rules of the commission, and providing training and other administrative functions. The bill contains provisions for the formation of the commission's executive committee and other aspects such as its budget, liability, and legal status.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 or a cost of Less than \$251,009 in FY 2009, an income of \$0 or a cost of Less than \$284,364 in FY 2010, and an income of \$0 or a cost of Less than \$289,894 in FY 2011. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will establish an agreement between the states without the involvement of the federal government. Currently, students who are military dependents meet many obstacles trying to complete their elementary and secondary education requirements because of varying state requirements. By entering into this compact, it will create a level playing field for students of military families by not penalizing or delaying them from obtaining their educational goals with inflexible administrative and bureaucratic policies.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Day and Pearce; Martin Dempsey, United States Department of Defense; and Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.