

HB 2266 -- MISSOURI TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Jones (89)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 6 to 0.

Currently, applicants for the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program must be high school seniors. This bill allows a graduate of a state public higher education institution with a teacher's certificate and at least a 3.25 college grade point average who agrees to teach for five years in certain districts to apply for assistance from the program. The bill also raises the required college grade point average that a high school senior applicant must maintain from a 3.0 to a 3.25.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill enhances the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program passed in 2007 by the General Assembly by encouraging high school seniors to stay in Missouri and teach in troubled districts in order to receive loan forgiveness and allowing college graduates to have a few extra years to decide if they would like to participate in the program.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (89); and Senator Smith.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.