

HCS HB 2053 -- SCHOOL BUDGETING AND PLANNING PROCESS

SPONSOR: Wallace

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 1.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the school budgeting and planning process. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Removes the requirement that a school's A+ Program coordinator be at least a half-time position;
- (2) Specifies that in fiscal years 2011 and 2012 if the school funding formula or transportation categorical is underfunded and if funds are withheld by the Governor in the following fiscal year:
  - (a) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education cannot penalize a school district on its accreditation review for failing to achieve resource standards; and
  - (b) The requirement for school districts to dedicate 1% of their formula funding to professional development and the 75% funding and fund placement requirements for teacher salaries will be suspended;
- (3) Allows school districts to use 10% of their categorical funds flexibly in fiscal years 2011 and 2012 and to transfer unobligated capital projects funds to the incidental fund once each year in fiscal years 2011 through 2013 as specified in the substitute; and
- (4) Allows a student to attend a different school district if his or her travel time is more than one hour each way, if the receiving district agrees, and if the travel time to the school in the receiving district is one-half or less of the travel time to the school in the student's residence district. The state aid received for the student will be awarded to the receiving district, and the receiving district is obligated to provide transportation only within its boundaries.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the current financial situation makes it difficult for school districts to meet all required standards. Some temporary flexibility in the use of funds would be very helpful and could save some teaching jobs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wallace; Missouri Association of School Administrators; Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals; Missouri School Boards Association; and Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say careful coordination between the bill and what is ultimately passed in the education appropriation bill is necessary, especially in crafting any "trigger" provisions. Financial difficulty is not a good reason to give up basic principles.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri National Education Association; Franc Flotron; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.