

HCS SCS SB 655 -- HIGHER EDUCATION CAPITAL FUND

SPONSOR: Green (Kelly, 24)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 11 to 1.

This substitute creates the Higher Education Capital Fund to provide matching funds to public colleges and universities for new construction, maintenance, or renovation of facilities, except that matching funds cannot be used for athletic facilities, parking structures, or student housing. Moneys distributed from the fund must not exceed 50% of the project's cost, must be appropriated through a line item specific to the project, and cannot originate from a bond issue. An institution must apply to the Commissioner of Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education demonstrating that it has obtained 50% of the project's cost through private donations or grants without using bonds, tuition, or state funds. The commissioner must create the application and establish procedures for receiving moneys and will administer the fund. The State Treasurer is the custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements from it and invest its moneys in the same manner as other state funds. The fund is a dedicated fund whose remaining moneys will not revert to the General Revenue Fund at the end of the biennium.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 or a cost of Unknown in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of \$0 or Unknown in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that matching state funds will be a powerful incentive for private donors.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Kelly (24) for Senator Green; and University of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.