

HCS HB 382 -- GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, this bill permits a school board or local education agency of a charter school to establish an academic and career counseling program in cooperation with parents and the local community that is in the best interest of and meets the needs of the students in the community. School districts and local education agencies may use the Missouri Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program as a resource for the development of a district or LEA program.

The bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a process for recognition of a school district's academic and career counseling program established with parents and the local community, no later than January 1, 2016.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will enhance student achievement and ensure guidance counselors' work is more effective.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri School Counselor Association; J G Foundation; Missouri National Education Association; and Dr. Sharon Sevier.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is an attempt to control lives and indoctrinate children.

Testifying against the bill were Rita L. Wiese and Janet Stark.