

HCS HB 742 -- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK GROUPS (Bahr)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

This bill specifies that each work group convened by the State Board of Education to review academic performance standards under the Outstanding Schools Act must elect a chairperson and a secretary. The secretary must record specified information and minutes and provide the information to work group members before meetings for a vote of approval. Once elected for positions the persons elected must submit their names, phone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chairperson and secretary must respond to any inquiry from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem, and Speaker within five business days of any inquiry.

Any person selected under these provisions must serve on the work group at the pleasure of the appointing authority who has selected him or her. He or she may be removed at any time and for any reason as the appointing authority who selected him or her deems necessary.

If a work group member's qualifications are challenged by a member of the work group or an appointing agency, a panel consisting of the chairpersons of the other seven work groups must review the member's qualifications and the member must, within 30 days, provide proof to the panel that he or she is qualified to serve. If the panel determines that the member does not meet the qualifications, he or she must be considered removed from the work group, and the original appointing entity must appoint a qualified person to fill the position within 30 days of the disqualified member's dismissal.

The chairperson of each work group must submit a monthly progress report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by the fifth day of each month. Each chairperson must update the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem, and Speaker as to any changes in member contact information. If a quorum is not reached for a meeting, the work group members present are authorized to work as a subcommittee. A quorum must be present for any vote to occur. If a specific member misses more than four meetings within a six-month period, the work group may, by a majority vote, recommend to the panel that the member be removed from the work group, and if a member is so dismissed by majority vote, he or she must be replaced within 30 days of dismissal with a new member appointed by the original appointing entity.

Work group members must be reimbursed by the department for travel expenses, including overnight accommodations, meals, and mileage reimbursement using the state per-diem formula, and the department must reimburse school districts for the cost of a substitute teacher if a work group member is required to miss a school day to attend a work group meeting. A district policy or administrative action cannot prohibit a teacher member from participating in a work group meeting nor can any teacher member be required to use personal leave or have a reduction in pay for participating in a work group meeting.

Work groups are authorized to establish as many grade-level expectations as believed necessary for each grade level. Work groups are required to meet with and collaborate with other work groups of the same subject area in order to ensure alignment of grade-level expectations. Before making any recommendations as to grade-level expectations or academic performance standards, the work groups are required to ensure that any standards developed or recommendations made are:

- (1) In compliance with the Show-Me Standards approved by the state board;
- (2) Age appropriate and developmentally appropriate; and
- (3) Understandable to teachers in that subject area.

Currently, the State Board of Education is required to adopt and implement academic performance standards beginning in the 2016-17 school year. The bill specifies that the state board may adopt as written, the academic performance standards developed and recommended by the work groups beginning in the 2016-17 school year, with implementation by the department. If the state board declines to adopt the standards, the board must provide suggestions for improvement to the work groups. The state board must align the statewide assessment system to the academic performance standards as needed.

At any time the state board or the department implements a new statewide assessment system, develops new academic performance standards, or makes changes to the Missouri School Improvement Program, the first two years, instead of only the first year, of the statewide assessment system and performance indicators must be utilized as pilot years for the purposes of calculating a district's annual performance report under the program.

The bill establishes in the department a Council for Community Education consisting of 11 individuals appointed by the Governor.

Membership may include, but is not limited to, representatives of the following groups:

- (1) Civic organizations;
- (2) Community-based organizations;
- (3) Community education organizations;
- (4) Local government;
- (5) Local school district administrators;
- (6) Parent organizations;
- (7) Post-secondary education;
- (8) School boards; and
- (9) Teachers.

The Commissioner of Education within the department or the commissioner's designee must convene the first meeting of the council for the purpose of establishing the bylaws and electing officers. The council must not meet more than four times annually and members may be reimbursed for expenses but must not receive a per diem allowance.

The council must conduct feasibility studies on the establishment of community education programs within the state, advise the commissioner and the department on issues relating to the establishment of community education programs, make recommendations for a state plan for community education which specifies the goals and objectives of a community school's program and establishes a system of priorities for targeting available resources on the areas with the greatest need within a school district, and make recommendations for the funding of local community education programs.

"Community school" means a school that makes its facilities available for citizen use; coordinates activities of local citizens in identifying program needs and establishing priorities; identifies and utilizes available program resources; and assists in the initiation of programs to improve the cultural, social, recreational, and educational opportunities available in a community. "Community education program" means a program in which a public building, including a public elementary or secondary school, is used as a community center operated by a school board in cooperation with other groups in the community, community

organizations, and local governmental agencies to provide educational, recreational, cultural, health care, and other related community services in accordance with the needs, interests, and concerns of the community.

A Task Force on School Safety Improvement is established in the department to conduct studies on school security features and practices schools and law enforcement officers can take to decrease the likelihood that an event or crisis will occur; actions schools and law enforcement officers can take to eliminate or reduce the loss of life and property damage related to an event or crisis; the establishment of programs within schools to provide instruction in grades seven through twelve on the criminal justice system and make curriculum recommendations for the programs; and the practicality and need for the appointment of a director of school safety in a specified county.