

HCS HB 807 & 690 -- OPEN ENROLLMENT

SPONSOR: Muschany (Baker, 123)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement by a vote of 7 to 1.

Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, this substitute allows open enrollment of students in fully accredited school districts within 30 miles of their home district. School districts must have a policy to define class size for open enrollment purposes, using the state minimum teacher-pupil ratio. When there are not enough seats open, the host district must have a process that ensures equal chances of admission, but preferences for siblings of children who already attend are permitted. Open enrollment students will be calculated at the per-pupil amount of the home or host district for state school aid, whichever is higher. The parent or guardian of the student is responsible for the transportation to the school. The substitute also contains provisions regarding sports participation, assessments, and intradistrict open enrollment.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that other states are successfully using open enrollment. Giving students a choice is important.

Testifying for HB 807 were Representative Cunningham (86); Children's Education Alliance of Missouri; Wendi Daniels; Angie Van Dyke; Gloria Burton; Missouri Charter Public School Association; and Alan J. Kerr. Testifying for HB 690 were Representatives Baker (123) and Cunningham (86); Dr. Steve Cookson; Hardy Billington; Missouri Charter Public School Association; and Veronica O'Brien.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bills say that the details of student funding, test scores, and athletic participation complicate open enrollment in Missouri.

Testifying against HB 807 were Roy Moss; Tim Thompson; Missouri Council of School Administrators; Steve McDannold, Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education; Missouri School Boards' Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; Kansas City Missouri School District; St. Louis Public Schools; and Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis. Testifying against HB 690 were Dr. Phyllis Chase, Columbia School District and School Administrators Coalition; Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis; Jim

Velten, Missouri State High School Activities Association; J. C. Headley; Brian Blankenship, Missouri Association of School Business Officials; Steve McDannold, Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education; Missouri State Teachers Association; Sid Dierhoff, Missouri Association of Rural Educators; Missouri National Education Association; and Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City.