

SCS SB 81 -- FINE ARTS EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Pearce (Frederick)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, the Office of Quality Schools within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education may ensure that each regional professional development center provide professional development educational assistance for fine arts. The emphasis for assistance may include acting as a resource for school districts; working with districts in staff development and curriculum issues related to fine arts education and integration; collaborating with regional office of professional development personnel and other regional personnel; coordinating services available from other entities involved in fine arts education and integration; assisting and supporting districts in providing fine arts education and the integration of the arts; and contributing to the development and implementation of in-service training that responds to the needs of arts specialists and other educators regarding the needs of Missouri students in fine arts and the integration of the arts.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that using the arts to keep students engaged and focused can improve school participation and academic performance. It is difficult to provide local professional development for this topic, so using the regional professional development centers to coordinate educator training is cost-efficient.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Pearce; Deborah Fisher, Missouri Alliance for Art Education; Jeff Sandquist; Laura Daily; AFT Missouri; Missouri School Boards Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.