

HB 311 with HCA 1 -- HIGH PERFORMANCE ENERGY BENCHMARKS

SPONSOR: McNeil

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 6 to 4.

This bill establishes the High Performance Energy Benchmarking Act that requires, beginning September 1, 2015, each school district to establish an energy star benchmark for each permanent building owned by the district and allows for the use a free on-line system provided by the federal Energy Star Program. Each district will report the results to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, maintain a database of the district's annual results, and publish the results on the department's website. The district may request a waiver of the audit requirements for financial hardship and may substitute the results with the results of a professional energy audit in certain circumstances.

HCA 1: Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a High Performance Energy Benchmarking Act Award program to recognize Missouri schools that benchmark using the Energy Star program and that achieve Energy Star national recognition. Beginning September 1, 2015, the department must annually notify all Missouri public schools and school boards of the award and each participating school district and school must use the free on-line portfolio manager provided by Energy Star to generate an efficiency benchmark rating. Each participating district must maintain a database of results for each school building and report results to their respective school boards and the department. The amendment adds that the program will sunset after six years.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will increase energy efficiency by giving schools the opportunity to become aware of current energy use.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McNeil and Erik Lueders, Parkway School District.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.