

HCS HB 658-- SCHOOL CONSTITUTION PROJECT

SPONSOR: Ross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill allows a school district to develop a policy allowing student participation in the Constitution Project of the Missouri Supreme Court to be recognized through credit for a portion of, or in collaboration with, the community service or citizenship requirements of the A+ Tuition Reimbursement Program, the Missouri and United States Constitution course, or any relevant course or instructional unit in American government or a similar subject or through district or school-level awards.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will encourage participation in the Constitution Project, which helps students learn about government and how the branches work together.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ross; Missouri Press Association; Missouri Humanities Council; and Missouri Broadcasters Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill stated that teaching students about government is important.

Testifying for informational purposes was the Honorable Douglas Gaston, Associate Circuit Judge, Texas County.