

HCS HB 1023 -- SCHOOL QUALITY INDICATORS

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0. HCS voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

After December 31, 2018, when the State Board of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education assigns classification designations to school districts and attendance centers under its authority to classify the public schools, this bill permits the state board to base its determination on the implementation of the school district's plan to address multiple, specified school quality indicators.

Before July 1, 2018, each school district must establish its own operation and assessment plan to address the school quality indicators described in these provisions for each school and for the district. Teachers, administrators, business leaders, parents, and community stakeholders must develop a plan, describing how the school district and each school will strive to acquire all school quality indicators, including curriculum, instructional approaches, assessments, and improvement measures, all of which must be approved by the school board.

Each school district must prepare annual reports that contain the plan established under these provisions and the indexes established for the most recent school year. Each school must prepare annual reports that contain the indexes established under these provisions for the most recent school year. Each school district must determine the format of these annual reports for itself and for the schools in its district. The state board may review the annual reports and provide feedback to the schools and districts with the goal of making the reports more useful. Immediately after preparing the annual reports, all school districts and schools must disseminate the annual reports to the department, the parents of the students that they serve, and the communities in which they are located.

The department must use the data submitted in the reports to prepare annual reports on the state of public education in Missouri. After November 30, 2018, the department must send the annual reports to the Joint Committee on Education.

The bill establishes the School Quality Task Force with members to be chosen to represent the geographic diversity of the state; requires the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Higher

Education, and the Director of the Department of Economic Development to be ex officio members; specifies other members to be appointed to the task force; and provides procedural requirements. The task force is created to study specified options and practices must present its findings to the Joint Committee on Education and the State Board of Education by December 31, 2016. The task force will dissolve upon presentation of its findings.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill deviates from the current importance placed on standardized testing and gives local control back to the school districts to define success.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri National Education Association; School Administrators Coalition; and Mary R. Byrne.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Those testifying for informational purposes want to avoid putting people into rigid tracks and have concerns about wording in the bill that may be difficult to interpret.

Others testifying on the bill were Anne Gassel and Therese Sander.