

HCS SB 13 -- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Munzlinger (Spencer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill requires the State Board of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish minimum requirements for a career and technical education (CTE) certificate that a student can earn in addition to his or her high school diploma. Students entering high school in the 2016-17 school year and thereafter must be eligible to earn a CTE certificate.

The bill requires the state board to establish CTE requirements intended to provide students with the necessary technical employability skills to be prepared for an entry-level career in a technical field or additional training in a technical field. These provisions must not be considered a means for tracking students, meaning separating pupils by academic ability into groups for all subjects or certain classes and curriculum, in order to impel students to particular vocational, career, or college paths.

Each local school district must determine the curriculum, programs of study, and course offerings based on the needs and interests of the students in the district. As required by Missouri's state plan for career education and the Missouri School Improvement Program, the state board must work in cooperation with individual school districts to stipulate the minimum number of CTE offerings.

Each local school district must strive to offer programs of study that are economically feasible for students in the district. In establishing CTE offerings, the district may rely on standards for industry-recognized certificates or credentials.

No later than January 1, 2016, the department must develop a process for recognition of a school district's career and technical education program that offers a career and technical education certificate.

This bill modifies the composition of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council. Currently, the Governor appoints the Advisory Council's current 11 members, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to make these appointments. The bill expands the Advisory Council's membership to 15 members by adding two senators, appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and two representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of

Representatives. The four legislative members will serve on the Advisory Council until they resign, are no longer members of the General Assembly, or are replaced by new appointments.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will make career and technical studies more efficient and offer more opportunities by getting this board off the ground and running.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Munzlinger; Missouri State Teachers Association; State Technical College of Missouri; Ann Brand, and St. Louis Community College.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.