

SCS SB 224 -- A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Romine (Fitzpatrick)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill requires a student to be a United States citizen or permanent resident in order to be eligible to receive reimbursements from the A+ Schools Program.

These provisions will become effective on July 1, 2015, or upon its passage and approval, whichever occurs later.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that because the A+ Program is not fully funded, only citizens should receive these funds which is accomplished through the bill.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Romine.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that some of the students this bill will affect pay taxes, and these students who fulfill the requirements for an A+ scholarship deserve the funding.

Testifying against the bill were ACLU of Missouri and Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill discussed the fiscal note.

Testifying on the bill was Leroy Wade, Department of Higher Education.