

HB 1430 with HCA 1 -- SCHOOL BOARD CONTINUING EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill establishes continuing education requirements for school board members. Board members in districts that are provisionally accredited, have any school building scoring less than fully accredited, or that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education deems as needing additional support must complete a total of 12 hours of continuing education training annually with at least six hours on specified subjects. The training must not replace and must be in addition to the specified orientation and training requirements for new school board members. Incumbent board members who have served on the board in the term immediately prior or those reelected after a break in service must complete at least four hours of continuing education training as set by the districts' board policy.

Failure to comply with the orientation and training requirements may result in the forfeiture of his or her position on the board or other penalty as set by board policy of that district.

This bill is the same as HB 1239 (2015).

HCA #1: This amendment changes the training requirements by removing the topic of curriculum, adding the topic of learning how to use the new superintendent evaluation criteria and instrument found on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website, and as described within the amendment.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say this bill will help provisionally accredited districts and other districts to make long range plans. This is a good step for schools that are failing or are at risk of failing. There is a big correlation between students failing and school boards not maintaining control. It would be good for school boards to get this training.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sommer; Missouri School Boards Association; and the Missouri Education Reform Council.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.