

HCS HB 1943 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 7 to 3.

REQUIRED SCHOOL DAYS AND TERM (Sections 160.011 and 160.041, RSMo)

This bill changes the definition of "school term" from specific requirements on the number of days, the total of which must equal 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance, to a standard measurement of 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance and no subsequent number of days.

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year there will not be a minimum number of days required and each school district shall define for itself a "school day" or "minimum school day."

CHARTER SCHOOLS (Section 160.405)

This bill changes the reference of what laws and rules relating to schools, governing boards, and school districts are applicable to charter schools by adding to the current rules of application as provided in Sections 160.400 to 160.425.

STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT (Section 160.518)

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, this bill prohibits any student from spending more than 2% of the school term taking required statewide assessments.

CURRENT OPERATING EXPENDITURES (Section 163.011)

This bill repeals current language enacted on July 1, 2010 defining "current operating expenditures (COE)" and changes the COE calculation by reinstating the 5% cap.

This bill prohibits the "state adequacy target" recalculation from resulting in a decrease from the previous state adequacy target amount as calculated and applied in fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

This bill changes the calculation of the "free and reduced lunch threshold" by adding "regular term" to ADA within the divisor. It also adds a calculation for the "free and reduced lunch threshold for the district." Calculated by multiplying the free and reduced lunch threshold by the districts regular term ADA.

This bill changes the calculation of the "Limited English proficiency threshold" by adding "regular term" to ADA within the divisor. It also adds a calculation for the "Limited English proficiency threshold for the district." Calculated by multiplying the limited English proficiency threshold by the districts regular term ADA.

This bill adds a calculation for the regular term average daily attendance using the total number of hours attended in a term by the resident pupils aged 5-21 divided by the actual number of hours school was in session in that term.

This bill changes the calculation for the Special Education threshold by adding regular term to ADA within the divisor. It also adds a calculation for the special education threshold for the district. Calculated by multiplying the special education threshold by the district's regular term ADA.

This bill changes the weighted average daily attendance calculation for the free and reduced lunch threshold, special education threshold, and limited English proficiency threshold by making these calculations district specific.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (Section 163.019)

The committee must hold a hearing and report its findings to the General Assembly by January 31, 2017.

PUPIL ATTENDANCE (Sections 163.021 and 171.031)

Beginning in the school year 2017-18, this bill requires 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance, with no minimum number of school days, for each pupil or group of pupils; however, the board must provide a minimum of 522 hours of actual pupil attendance in a term for kindergarten pupils with no minimum number of school days.

DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES (Section 163.073)

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year and subsequent years, this bill changes the formula for calculating state aid for full-time education services provided by the Division of Youth Services within the Department of Social Services to elementary and secondary students who have been assigned to the division by the courts, and who have been determined as inappropriate for attendance in a local public school. It also adds a calculation for the special education threshold for the district. Calculated by multiplying the special education threshold by the district's regular term ADA.

SUMMER SCHOOL (Section 167.228)

This bill limits the amount of summer school hours claimed for purposes of state aid distribution under Sections 163.031 to 180 hours.

REQUIRED HOURS (Section 171.033)

Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, this bill requires each school calendar to include 36 weather make-up hours without any minimum make-up days required and removes the provisions limiting the number of hours allowed per school day.

The bill repeals Section 171.029, regarding the number of required school days and has an effective date July 1, 2017.

This bill contains an emergency clause for certain sections.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will help to set and reach an attainable fully-funded target for public schools in the state. Setting an attainable target for funding and hitting that target is positive for the schools, students, and state. Others say they saw benefits for both students and teachers from extending the school day by 40 minutes and are optimistic the bill would allow them to continue doing so.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wood; Missouri Charter Public School Association; Catapult Learning; and the Missouri Education Reform Council.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say they have concerns. They do a lot of on-line courses and their entire summer school curriculum is offered on-line and are concerned changing the formula will hurt their summer school on-line program.

Testifying against the bill was Matt Zoph.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they had initial concerns with the bill before being amended and the amendment addressed most of those concerns. They were initially concerned that summer school would be eliminated and asked that there not be a situation created where summer school would be a separate appropriation. If you don't have a formula with some degree of predictability it makes it very difficult to plan ahead.

Testifying on the bill were Dale Herl, Independence School District; Missouri Council Of School Administrators; Missouri National Education Association; Kansas City Area Schools; and Roger

Dorson, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.