

HCS HB 555 -- SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

SPONSOR: Ross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 4.

This bill requires any school district that authorizes an employee of the district to carry a concealed firearm to post at any school in the district a notice stating, "Attention: Staff at this campus are armed and trained to meet threats to student safety with deadly force if necessary."

If a school district does not have an employee authorized to carry a concealed firearm by October 1 of any school year, the district must send a written notice, as described within the bill, to parents and guardians of enrolled students.

The bill requires that when a teacher from a district or charter school is considered for employment by another district or charter school the hiring district or charter school must request, and the former district or charter school must provide, specified information regarding any violation that was determined to be an actual violation and related to abusive behavior toward a student.

This bill is the same as HB 2707 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that parents should know if their children's schools aren't taking advantage of the opportunity to allow guns on campus. Supporters also say that it is in everybody's best interest to stop school from just passing problem teachers on to other schools.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ross and Missourians for Personal Safety.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that we still need to balance the interest of the students with the due process rights of the teachers.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri National Education Association.