

HCS HB 1245 -- CAREER READINESS COURSE

SPONSOR: Bangert

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 6 to 2.

This bill establishes the "Career Readiness Course Task Force" to explore a course offering, for eighth or ninth grade public school students, that would cover topics related to various career and educational opportunities, as specified in the bill. The course should focus on career readiness and emphasize the importance of work ethic, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. The course should also demonstrate that graduation from a four-year college is not the only path to success and discuss other pathways.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1113 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that information about varying educational opportunities and career readiness needs to be conveyed to students, and a course ensuring every student gets that information should be considered.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bangert; Missouri School Board Association; St. Louis Community College; Missouri School Counselor Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; School Administrators Coalition; St. Louis - Kansas City Carpenters Regional Council; and Missouri NEA.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the topics covered by this bill are what career and technical education is all about, and these materials are incorporated into all career and technical courses. There is a concern that an additional course, especially if the course is mandatory, might prevent students from taking actual career and technical courses.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Association of Career and Technical Education.