

HB 322 -- RECOVERY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Basye

This bill allows, a recovery charter high school to be operated in an urban school district containing most or all of Kansas City or if the Kansas City district denies the proposed charter than any entity that qualifies as a non profit 502(c)(3).

This bill defines a "recovery charter high school" as a charter school for students in grades 9 through 12. In order to operate, such charter school must educate all available eligible students who are in recovery from substance use disorder, substance dependency, or co-occurring disorders such as anxiety, depression, and attention deficit hyperbillivity disorder (ADHD); must meet state requirements for awarding a high school diploma; and must support students in working a strong program of recovery.

A recovery charter high school shall enroll all pupils in the district in which it operates; nonresident pupils eligible to attend a district's school under an urban voluntary transfer program; nonresident pupils who transfer from an unaccredited district; and any nonresident pupil, who is in recovery from substance use disorder, substance dependency, or co-occurring disorders. Admission shall be limited to pupils who are in recovery from substance use disorder, substance dependency, or co-occurring disorders.

A recovery charter high school may enroll students residing in a state other than Missouri, provided such student is in recovery from substance use disorder, substance dependency, or co-occurring disorders specified in the bill. This bill grants the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) the authority to enter into agreements with other states to develop a reciprocity agreement for students seeking to attend a recovery charter high school in Missouri. The out-of-state student's district of residence shall pay to the recovery charter high school an annual amount equal to 105% of the previous year's per pupil expenditure in Missouri, and the student shall not be included in Missouri's count of average daily attendance. If an out-of-state student resides in a state that is not subject to a reciprocity agreement, such student may attend a recovery charter high school provided such student pays to the school 105% of the previous year's per pupil expenditure in Missouri.

The bill specifies that if a recovery charter high school that has not declared itself as a local educational agency has one or more nonresident pupils, the nonresident pupils shall not be counted for purposes of determining state aid. Each school district that has

one or more of its resident pupils attending such a charter school shall pay to the charter school, for each such pupil, 100% of its average per-pupil expenditure, excluding interest payments and grants.

If a recovery charter high school that has declared itself a local educational agency has one or more nonresident pupils, DESE shall reimburse such charter school an amount specified in the bill.

Upon notice of the charter school's declaration of local educational agency status, the DESE shall reduce the payment made to the school district in which the charter school is located by the amount set forth in the bill, and pay such amount directly to the charter school.

This bill also permits charter schools to receive payments from school districts.

This bill is similar to SB 525 and HB 1487 (2020).