

HCS HB 715 -- EDUCATIONAL COSTS FOR CHILDREN IN STATE CUSTODY

SPONSOR: Kelly (141)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 715.

This bill provides educational funding for children admitted to a residential care facility licensed under Sections 210.481 to 210.536, RSMo. The bill outlines payment amounts for both resident and non-resident pupils.

The payment amount for a pupil receiving all of such pupil's education in a residential care facility shall be equal to 95% of the average daily attendance share of local and state funding attributable to a student in a resident district or in the non-resident district for any non-resident student. For any resident students that receive less than all of their education at a facility the payment amount shall be attributable to the time such education is received.

Residential care facilities may also reach a financial agreement with a school district that deviates from the provisions of this section.

The bill adds admittance under a physician's order due to a determination of medical necessity for a diagnosed mental illness to the current reasons for which a school district must provide educational services. This provision applies to both resident and non-resident children and includes the current determination of medical necessity required for an authorization from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to make payments in lieu of local tax efforts for such children.

Currently, domiciliary school districts must pay costs for educational services rendered by a resident district for any child temporarily in a children's hospital licensed under Chapter 197, RSMo. This bill expands the requirement to include children that are in a psychiatric residential treatment facility.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will make sure the state is taking care of its children. Children will be able to receive adequate education no matter their assigned residence. Current funding does not cover the cost of educating kids in residential treatment centers; this bill will help in this issue.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Kelly; Epworth Children's Center; and the Missouri Coalition For Children.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there aren't many school districts that are dedicated only to IEP students. Those school districts are funded through taxes in the local county. It costs a lot to educate special needs kids and we should be willing to pay that cost. We should also be careful not double dip into taxpayer's funds.

Testifying in person on the bill was the Special School District.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.