

HCS HB 223 & 231 -- HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Thomson (Wallingford)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

Subject to appropriation, this substitute requires the Department of Higher Education to make available a nonrenewable advanced placement incentive grant of \$500 to any recipient of financial aid under the A+ Schools or Access Missouri programs if the recipient received a score of three or higher on two advanced placement examinations in mathematics or science while attending a Missouri public high school.

The Nursing Education Incentive Program is established within the Department of Higher Education to address nursing shortages and repeals an obsolete incentive grant program which focused on nontraditional nursing students. The Board of Nursing within the Division of Professional Registration in the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration is authorized to provide funding for the program; and subject to appropriation, the Department of Higher Education will award grants, capped at \$150,000 per year, to eligible accredited higher education institutions based on criteria to be determined by the board and the Department of Higher Education. An eligible institution must offer a nursing program that meets the category and area of need as determined by the board and the Department of Higher Education based on data from sources specified in the substitute.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014. Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds of an income of \$0 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of House Bill 223 say that money from nursing license fees will fund this initiative allowing higher education institutions to address the nursing shortage by expanding their programs.

Supporters of House Bill 231 say that an incentive program to assist students who may be interested in math or science is necessary because of the shortage of qualified scientists and mathematicians. Funding from the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MoHELA) will pay for this program.

Testifying for HB 223 were Representative Wallingford; Office of the Governor; Department of Higher Education; University of

Missouri; Missouri State Board of Nursing, Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration; Missouri Southern State University; Missouri Nurses Association; University of Central Missouri; and Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri.

Testifying for HB 231 were Representative Thomson; Department of Higher Education; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; St. Louis Community College; Missouri Community College Association; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on House Bill 223 say that the Robert Wood Johnson report mentioned in the bill is not necessarily objective information.

Testifying on HB 223 was Missouri State Medical Association.