

HB 463 -- Virtual Schools

Sponsor: McNary

This bill changes the laws regarding virtual schools. A nonresident student who is eligible for public education may attend a school district or a charter school to access virtual courses or programs and must be defined as a virtual resident student. For purposes of state school funding, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must pay the district or charter school 85% of its tuition charge for a nonresident or of the state adequacy target, whichever is greater, but the amount cannot exceed 1.25 times the state adequacy target for each enrolled virtual student. If the average local tax effort per average daily attendance of the residence district does not exceed 85% of the amount paid per virtual resident student, the department must deposit an amount into the General Revenue Fund that is the greater of 10% of the tuition charge for a nonresident student or 10% of the state adequacy target. The department must withhold from the residence district an amount equal to the amount paid for the virtual education plus the amount deposited into the fund.

The bill specifies that those entities authorized to sponsor a charter school are allowed to sponsor a virtual charter school. Any college or university with an approved teacher education program with its primary campus located in Missouri is also authorized to sponsor a virtual charter school. The bill clarifies that virtual charter schools are subject to the provisions regarding charter schools and allows them to only offer instruction in a virtual setting using technology, the Intranet, and Internet methods of communication.