

HCS HB 76 -- FINANCIAL STANDARDS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Rowland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 20 to 0.

Currently, if the school funding formula is underfunded or the transportation appropriation is less than 75% of allowable costs in fiscal years 2011, 2012, or 2013, a school district cannot be penalized for failing to meet its accreditation resource standards under the Missouri School Improvement Program (MSIP). This substitute removes the limitation to specific fiscal years and applies this provision to any fiscal year in which the formula or cost of transportation is underfunded.

Similarly, if the Governor withholds funds for the school funding formula basic apportionment in any fiscal year, a school cannot be penalized in the following fiscal year for failing to meet resource standards under the program. Currently, this provision only applies in fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013.

The substitute also specifies that the required expenditure by school districts on professional development and fund placement as a condition for receiving state school aid may be waived in any year in which the formula is underfunded or in the following year if the Governor withholds funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that flexibility is crucial for school districts when state school funding stays stagnant or falls.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowland; Missouri School Boards Association; Mike Lodewegen, School Administrators Coalition; Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City; and Missouri Education Reform Council.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others say that the effect of less professional development on student achievement remains a concern. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has not accredited school districts based on resource standards beginning with MSIP 4.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri State Teachers Association; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.