

HCS HB 1389 -- RECIPROCITY FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION (Thomson)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Higher Education

This bill specifies that the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in the Department of Higher Education must be responsible for entering into agreements for interstate reciprocity regarding the delivery of postsecondary distance education. The coordinating board will have responsibility for administering the agreements and approving or disapproving applications from postsecondary education institutions with their principal campus located in Missouri to participate in the agreements.

The coordinating board must establish standards for institutional approval, including a definition of physical presence for non-Missouri institutions serving Missouri residents consistent with other states' definition of physical presence; establishment of consumer protection policies for distance education addressing recruitment, marketing activities, disclosure of tuition, fees, and other charges, disclosure of admission processes and procedures; and student complaints. The coordinating board must establish policies for the review and resolution of student complaints arising from programs offered under the agreement.

The coordinating board may charge fees to any institution applying to participate in an interstate reciprocity agreement. The fees cannot exceed the coordinating board's cost of reviewing and evaluating the applications.