

HB 1490 -- COMMON CORE STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Bahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 7.

The State Board of Education must not adopt and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must not implement the Common Core State Standards developed by the Common Core Standards Initiative. Any actions taken to adopt or implement the Common Core State Standards as of August 28, 2014, are void. Common Core State Standards or any other statewide education standards require the approval of the General Assembly.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the statutory process for developing and approving standards was circumvented. Not many parents or teachers were consulted in the process. The assessments that test the standards will require information technology that not all schools have. Data-sharing requirements are a concern.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bahr; Mark Knight; Lawrence Frencken, East Newton School District; Jane Cunningham; Philip Todd; Tonya Long; Mary Byrne; Ann Gassel, Missouri Coalition Against the Common Core; Heather Kesselring; Stacy Shore; Jill Carter; Ellen Bishop; Terry Howen; Elizabeth Howen; Ania Bishop; Cynthia Mulhall; Concerned Women of America of Missouri; Rachelle Engen; and Crystal Williams.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the Common Core Standards encourage a deeper understanding of how information connects to the world. Turning back now would disrupt assessment and negatively impact teacher morale.

Testifying against the bill were Jamie Manker; Nancy Bergfeld; Mike Lodewegen, School Administrators Coalition; and Margie Vandeven, Deputy Commissioner Learning Services, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say curriculum is often a mile wide, but an inch deep, so students do not develop a full understanding of topics.

Testifying on the bill were Kathryn Chval and John Lannin.