

HB 377 with HCA 1 -- REMEDIATION PREVENTION IN SCHOOL

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill allows each student during his or her 7th grade year at a public school or charter school to develop a personal plan of study with help from the school's guidance counselors that must be reviewed at least annually by school personnel and the student's parent or guardian and updated based on the needs of the student; requires, beginning with the 2016-17 school year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to include a credit component in the scoring guide under the Missouri School Improvement Program for school districts that implement this plan; and requires, no later than January 1, 2016, the department to develop a process for recognition of a school district's program for developing personal plans of study for all students entering 7th grade.

The bill requires each school district to develop a policy and implement a system by July 1, 2017, for identifying students in their ninth grade year and students who transfer into the school after ninth grade who are at risk of not being ready for college-level work or for entry-level career positions. Indicators include, but are not limited to, performance on the English I and Algebra I statewide assessments; the district's reported remediation rate; and the student attendance rate. The district policy must require academic and career counseling to take place sufficiently prior to graduation for any at-risk student to ensure the ability of the school to provide sufficient opportunities to the student to graduate college or career ready and on time. By January 1, 2016, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must develop a process for recognition of a school district's program of academic and career counseling for students who have been identified as being at risk of dropping out or at risk of not being ready for college-level coursework or for an entry-level career position.

The bill repeals the provision that prohibits the use of the reported remediation rate for any other purpose and requires:

(1) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to conduct a review of its policies and procedures relating to best practices in remediation as identified by the Department of Higher Education to ensure that districts are informed about and held accountable for implementing the best practices. The Department of

Elementary and Secondary Education must present its results to the Joint Committee on Education by October 31, 2016; and

(2) The Department of Higher Education in consultation with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop a report that analyzes the results of the remediation rate report relative to student performance on the statewide assessment for English I and Algebra I by July 1, 2018.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of the bill say that the bill addresses at-risk students and increases the likelihood for a more trained workforce.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.