

HB 2031 with HCA 1 and HCA 2 -- TRANSPARENCY BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Bahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 12 to 0.

Requires State Board of Education meetings to be recorded by video, posted on the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website, archived, provided for free, and easily accessible.

HCA #1: This amendment requires the video records to be retained, destroyed, or disposed of by the state records commission under the procedures established in Section 109.250, RSMo.

HCA #2: This amendment prohibits the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education from requiring members of the public to create an account or register in order to view the video streams. It also prohibits DESE from collecting, selling, or making publicly available personally identifiable information of any person who views the video streams.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say there is a big disconnect between the state board and the state community. This bill would give people an opportunity to view these meetings at their leisure and see that the state board truly does care about children in the state. It would make it easier to contact members of the board. The board works to provide education to children and it is important for this to be seen by citizens of the state. This bill would help to increase transparency.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bahr; Missouri Education Reform Council; and the Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there is currently live audio streaming of state board meetings. The streaming was set up at the request of the state board. There is currently an email address (SBE@DESE.Mo.Gov) for contacting members of the board. It is not an address for a specific member but there is an assistant who directs the emails to the appropriate party (member).

Testifying on the bill was DESE.