

HB 1058 -- SCHOOL ATTIRE

SPONSOR: Cunningham (86)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 15 to 0.

Currently, a student who is wearing any emblem, insignia, or garment in a nondisruptive manner cannot be asked to remove it. This bill restricts the emblem, insignia, or garment to a religious one. However, if the emblem or insignia is placed on a garment that the school has prohibited for being contrary to its educational mission, the student may be asked not to wear the garment again.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that in 2004 a law was enacted to protect a student's right to wear certain clothing, but an unintended consequence permitted students to evade compliance. The bill corrects the loophole.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cunningham (86); Missouri Association of School Administrators; and Missouri School Boards' Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst