

HCS HB 1059 -- SCHOOL CREDIT

SPONSOR: Cunningham (86)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute establishes procedures for evaluation of credit when a student enters a public school from an unaccredited public, any nonpublic school, or a home school. The school district must provide a written explanation of enrollment, credit issuance, grade placement, and the appeal process. The district will review course work, test results, transcripts, and performance data to determine credit and grade level within 30 days. If the district is not able to make a determination from the data it was given, it may administer a proficiency assessment, set by school board policy. Incoming students will be judged by the same criteria for passing as current students. Board policies must be reasonable and nondiscriminatory. If course work does not fulfill a district's curricular objectives, elective credit may be awarded if the course is sufficiently documented.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that where a student has been educated may have an undue effect on the evaluation of his or her transcript, and the evaluation may be different from district to district. The bill provides guidelines to promote a more consistent evaluation process.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cunningham (86); and Sharon Sevier, Parkway School District.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the State Board of Education sets down the basic graduation requirements, but individual districts control what credits will be allowed and grant the diploma.

Others testifying on the bill was Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst