

HCS HB 1347 -- COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Kingery (Myers)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 10 to 1.

Currently, students at all public and private colleges, except private trade schools, are required to take an examination on the United States and Missouri constitutions and on American history and institutions. This substitute eliminates the requirement for private colleges and makes it apply only to candidates for an associate of arts or bachelor's degree. The substitute also clarifies that the requirement may be satisfied by an examination or a three-hour course and requires public institutions to report how they are ensuring fulfillment of the requirement by September 1, 2007. The duty of the commissioners of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Education to prescribe lists of suitable textbooks is eliminated.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many students graduating from college have little idea how American government works or how American history affects their everyday lives.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Myers.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say an American literature or history requirement would be an imposition on technical school students seeking associate of science or applied science degrees or certificates.

Others testifying on the bill were Linn State Technical College; University of Missouri; and Associated Students of the University of Missouri.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst