

SCS SB 580 -- COORDINATING EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

SPONSOR: Shields (Baker, 123)

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

This substitute requires the Commissioner of Higher Education, the chair of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, the Commissioner of Education, the President of the State Board of Education, and the Director of the Department of Economic Development to meet and discuss ways in which their respective departments may collaborate to achieve a more efficient and effective education system that more adequately prepares students for entering the workforce. The group is required to annually report to the General Assembly and the Governor their agencies' actions and recommendations for initiatives and statutory changes.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that having a mechanism to promote a coordinated, continuing dialogue with all the stakeholders in the whole range of education will be a valuable tool for improvements in education and economic development.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Shields; Department of Higher Education; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri State Teachers Association; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst