

HCS HB 417 -- CREDENTIALS OF TEACHERS AND STUDENT COURSE WORK EVALUATIONS

SPONSOR: Muschany (Cunningham, 86)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement by a vote of 6 to 1.

This substitute creates an additional process for teacher certification in personal finance for applicants with credentials specified in the substitute. These teachers must also complete professional development requirements in proportion to their hours in the classroom if they are employed less than full time. School districts are allowed to offer hiring incentives or salary schedule modifications to attract and retain teachers who have credentials that correlate with improved student achievement. The teachers may be required to teach for up to three years in return for the incentive.

Guidelines are established for the evaluation of a student's course work and grade level placement upon transfer into a school district. A restriction on placing information on high school diplomas is repealed.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that incentives make it easier to attract teachers. Permitting adjunct teachers from the business community will help high schools provide the personal finance course now required for graduation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cunningham (86); Missouri School Boards' Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis; Missouri Council of School Administrators/School Administrators Coalition; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that two unfunded teacher loan forgiveness programs are on the books now, which, if funded, could do more to increase teachers in shortage areas than incentives would. It is difficult to permit flexibility for incentives in a way that won't be subject to abuse.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri National Education Association; and Missouri State Teachers Association.