

HCS SB 925 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCEDURES

SPONSOR: Days (Aull)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding certain school district procedures. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Allows school districts to keep permanent records in digital or electronic form;
- (2) Requires twins or other multiple-birth siblings to be placed in the same classroom if the parent or legal guardian makes a request within 14 days after the first day of school or the date of the children's enrollment. The district is allowed to change the placement if it is detrimental or disrupts the classroom;
- (3) Prohibits public school districts from using school funds to purchase alcoholic beverages or to reimburse anyone for the purchase;
- (4) Allows the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to withhold delinquent tuition from the state aid payment of a sending unaccredited school district if a receiving district requests it and requires the department to establish specific criteria for the admission or rejection of nonresident pupils from an unaccredited district before the 2009-2010 school year begins;
- (5) Allows districts to establish their own class size guidelines if they are consistently applied; and
- (6) Specifies that the admission of a nonresident student who appears to be a safety threat may be refused under certain circumstances. These admissions decisions may be appealed to the State Board of Education.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that electronic record keeping will help lower the costs of storage.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Days; Penney Rector, School Administrators Coalition; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.