

HCS HB 217 -- STUDENT REQUESTS FOR TRANSFER

SPONSOR: Hoskins (80)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 5 to 4.

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year and except for school districts in the counties of Jackson and Platte, this substitute requires a school district that refuses a request for transfer from a nonresident student from an unaccredited district into an adjoining accredited school district to provide to the parent or guardian the reason for the refusal in writing by citing the specific district policy that allows the district to refuse the transfer. Appeals can be made to the State Board of Education.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that a student attending an unaccredited school district is eligible to transfer, but school districts can refuse the transfer for any reason. The bill simply states that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must create criteria for a school district to be able to refuse a student. In St. Louis, school districts adjacent to unaccredited school districts have a uniform agreement to deny all students wanting a transfer. Students should be allowed to go to any school district until the statewide school system has improved.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Hoskins (80).

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that unaccredited school districts will suffer. The provisions erode local control and make it hard to plan for upcoming school years.

Testifying against the bill were Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis; Missouri Council of School Administrators; and Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City.