

HB 682 -- SCHOOL MAKE-UP DAYS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

SPONSOR: Swinger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 0.

Currently, schools are required to make up the first six days of school lost due to inclement weather and half of the additional days lost in excess of the first six. This bill allows an exception for the 2008-2009 school year by requiring schools to make up half of the remaining lost days up to a total of 10 full make-up days.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the January 26 ice storm hit southeastern Missouri so hard that several schools have missed two weeks or more. For a school that was out for more than 14 days, a point of diminishing returns could be reached because students tend to lose focus by late May.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swinger; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri National Education Association; and Penney Rector, School Administrators Coalition.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.