

SB 232 -- EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

SPONSOR: Cunningham (Dixon)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill prohibits municipal fire and police departments, state agencies and departments, and political subdivisions of the state from discriminating in employment practices based on an individual's elementary or secondary education program if the program is permitted under state law. Employers may require individuals to have other abilities or skills applicable to the duties of a position.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is correcting the definition of an accredited public school so that employers cannot discriminate against persons applying for jobs who have gone to an unaccredited school. Section 43.060, RSMo, specifies that a person has to be a graduate from a four-year accredited high school in order to enter into some public training programs. This disqualifies home schooled children, private school children, and students from unaccredited high schools from getting into the training programs for police and fire departments.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dixon for Senator Cunningham; and Families for Home Education.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.