

HCS HB 1169 -- SPANKING IN SCHOOL INVESTIGATIONS

SPONSOR: Franz

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 2.

Currently, if a school receives a report of child abuse that arises from school personnel following a district policy on spanking or the use of reasonable force to protect persons or property, the school superintendent or school board president must send a notice of the incident to the county juvenile officer. This substitute requires the notice to be sent to the law enforcement in the county.

Currently, the report of the incident must be investigated by a law enforcement officer designated by the juvenile officer. The substitute removes this option and requires the investigation to be conducted by the law enforcement in the county.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the juvenile officer does not have authority in this area, so receiving this complaint is unnecessary. Juvenile officers are not trained to conduct investigations in this type of complaint and should not be placed in the middle of an investigation between a school and the complainant. The complaint is usually filed against an adult and the juvenile court has no authority.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Franz; and Missouri Juvenile Justice Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.