

HB 1267 -- OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Denison

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

This bill requires, beginning July 1, 2013, children older than 15 years of age who are in the foster care system or the Division of Youth Services Program within the Department of Social Services to receive a visit to a state university or community or technical college in Missouri before being adopted or terminated by foster care or completing the division's custody or training. The visit must include an entry application process, financial support application and availability, career options with academic or technical training, a campus tour, and other information and experience desired.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that education is a lifeline for children in foster care and the bill helps prevent foster children from falling through the cracks. Education is the key to success for our foster children.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Denison; Roy Holand; Great Circle; Missouri National Education Association; and Office of Child Advocate.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.