

HB 1466 -- MATH AND SCIENCE TUTORING ACT

SPONSOR: Nasheed

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 5 to 1.

This bill creates the Math and Science Tutoring Act which establishes a pilot program for nonprofit tutoring centers for students in any St. Louis City public school which is less than 50% proficient schoolwide on its assessment scores. Master teachers, as specified in the bill, will staff the program and train the volunteer tutors to provide services that complement the student's school assignments. The center must provide transportation for the student's return trip after a tutoring session.

The Mathematics and Science Tutoring Center Fund is created which is to consist of \$300,000 appropriated by the General Assembly to start up the center and any gifts, grants, bequests, and devises. The Workforce Development Division within the Department of Economic Development must develop an application process to certify approved math and science tutoring centers for distribution of the appropriated funds. Beginning January 1, 2013, any business in the state engaged in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics occupation may make a donation to a center and retain half of the amount from its withholding tax.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years after the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$300,000 to Unknown in FY 2013, Unknown in FY 2014, and Unknown in FY 2015. Estimated Net Effect on Other State Funds of an income of Up to \$300,000 or Unknown to a cost of \$0 in FY 2013, an income of Unknown to a cost of \$0 in FY 2014, and an income of Unknown to a cost of \$0 in FY 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that a tutoring service that is designed to work in conjunction with the student's school assignments is a good way to improve academic performance and help the student qualify for better-paying jobs that require math and science.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Nasheed.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that students in St. Louis City schools already receive tutoring under the supplemental educational services provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Testifying against the bill was American Federation of Teachers.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that supporting science and mathematics is important.

Testifying on the bill was Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland, Incorporated.