

SCS SB 381 -- INNOVATION EDUCATION CAMPUS FUND

SPONSOR: Kraus (Cross)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute creates the Innovation Education Campus Fund to be administered by the Commissioner of Higher Education in the Department of Higher Education. An "innovation education campus" is defined as an educational partnership consisting of at least one local high school or K-12 school district, a Missouri four-year public or private institution of higher education, a Missouri-based business or businesses, and a Missouri public two-year institution of higher education or Linn State Technical College. The General Assembly may appropriate moneys to the fund that must be used to fund the program of instruction at any innovation education campus. An innovation education campus may receive moneys from the fund if it demonstrates that it is actively working to lower the cost for students to complete a college degree; the program decreases the time required for a student to earn a college degree; the campus provides applied and project-based learning experiences for students and leverages curriculum developed in consultation with partner Missouri business and industry representatives; students graduate from the campus with direct access to career opportunities with a Missouri-based business in partnership with the innovation education campus; and the campus engages and partners with industry stakeholders in ongoing program development and program outcomes review. The substitute specifies that the specified existing innovation education campus that includes the University of Central Missouri has satisfied these criteria and is eligible for funding under these provisions.

The coordinating board must review any innovation education campus for compliance with the requirements every five years and must consult with and take input from each entity that is a partner to an innovation education campus. An innovation education campus must annually verify to the coordinating board that it has satisfied the statutory criteria.

Moneys appropriated to the fund must not be considered part of the annual appropriation to any higher education institution or any school district.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill creates a statutory identity to help break down walls between universities, community colleges, elementary and secondary education, and business to facilitate the process of more meaningful, less costly education that ends with a job for the student.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kraus; University of Central Missouri; Metropolitan Community College; Cerner Corporation; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.