

HCS HB 1285 -- SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

SPONSOR: English

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass - Consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill requires the board of each school district to require every school in the district to conduct educational programs and activities and devote at least one class period leading up to an observance of Veterans Day that conveys the meaning and significance of the day.

The bill allows, at the discretion of the district, to include November 11 as a school holiday.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of the bill say that schools need to close on Veterans Day allowing students and families an opportunity to honor our veterans and pause and reflect on the sacrifices they made defending our country.

Testifying for the bill were Representative English; Pat Roe Kerr; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that most schools have functions on Veterans Day and believe that it would be more beneficial for the students to participate in Veterans Day programs than having the day off.

Testifying against the bill was Rich Heigert, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations.