

SB 334 -- INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Nasheed (Cookson)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding institutions of higher education.

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGES (Section 174.030, RSMo)

The bill repeals provisions that limited state teachers colleges from conferring postgraduate degrees except those necessary to the training of teachers or degrees other than those in education and arts and sciences.

HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY (Section 174.310)

The bill broadens the degree programs that Harris-Stowe State University may offer. Currently, Harris-Stowe is only authorized to offer undergraduate degree programs with an emphasis on selected applied professional disciplines. This bill authorizes Harris-Stowe to offer baccalaureate degree programs and graduate degree programs, upon approval of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY (Section 174.332)

Currently, membership on the Northwest Missouri State University's board of regents is based in part on residency in the university's historic statutory service region. The bill adds the counties of Andrew, Clinton, and DeKalb to the historic service region for the sole purpose of the composition of the board of regents.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will increase opportunities for students in the St. Louis area and place Harris-Stowe University on an even playing field with other colleges and universities in the state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Nasheed; Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, President, Harris-Stowe State University; Missouri National Education Association; and Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.