

HCS HB 1419 -- GIFTED EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Pfautsch

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies provisions relating to gifted education.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, a school district will incur a reduction in funding if it experiences a decrease in its gifted program enrollment of more than 20%. If a school district experiences a decrease of 20% or more in its gifted program enrollment, an amount equal to the product of the difference between the number of students enrolled in the gifted program in the current school year and the number of students enrolled in the previous school year multiplied by \$680 must be subtracted from the school district's current year payment amount. This provision does not apply to a school with less than 300 enrolled students.

This bill is similar to HB 637 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there seems to be a trend in schools that the number of gifted students that are served is declining. A distinction should be made between intelligent students and gifted students. A mandate is encouraged but in the alternative, a revenue reduction is helpful in order to ensure gifted students are getting adequate services.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pfautsch; Gifted Association Of Missouri; Jay Atkins; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri Education Reform Council; Missouri State Teachers Association; and Missouri School Boards Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.