

HCS HB 2327 -- URBAN EDUCATION INSTITUTE (Curtis)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Special Committee on Urban Issues

This bill establishes the "Urban Education Institute," a collaboration between students and faculty at Harris-Stowe State University to address the urban education crisis and to develop a framework to improve quality education in urban areas and public schools.

The institute is authorized to receive gifts, bequests, donations, and grant from any source, public or private, other than from any committee defined under Chapter 130, RSMo, or any political entity.

The institute shall employ, at a minimum, an executive director, two full-time grant writers, and two additional full-time employees. The institute is authorized to consult, collaborate and work in partnership with the education departments of three top-tier educational institutions, three top-tier historically black colleges and universities, any college or university in Missouri, and any other educational organizations.

The institute is prohibited from engaging in political lobbying or advocacy or using any funds received through appropriation to fund political lobbying or advocacy on behalf of the institute.

The provisions regarding the "Urban Education Institute" shall sunset six years after the effective date unless reauthorized.

The bill also requires all teacher-training institutions receiving state aid to require students to demonstrate proficiency on the concepts of trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions as defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Division within the U.S. Department of Health and Senior Services.