

HCS HB 2566 -- EARLY LEARNING QUALITY ASSURANCE

SPONSOR: Pfautsch

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill establishes an early learning quality assurance report three-year pilot program in collaboration with the Missouri Head Start Collaboration Office and the departments of Health and Senior Services, Mental Health, and Social Services. The program is voluntary for any licensed or license-exempt early learning providers that are center-based or home-based and providing services for children from any age up to kindergarten.

This bill also repeals a current section on quality rating systems for early childhood education. The section prohibits certain public institutions, as described within the section, from operating or mandating participation in a quality rating system or training quality assurance system, as described within the section.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say this bill will help parents, students, and the state of Missouri. There are many federal grants that are currently unavailable in Missouri because the state lacks such a program. There is a large amount of research that shows how helpful good early childhood education is, but there is also substantial amounts of research that shows how obstructive poor early childhood education is. Anything we can do to help provide our parents with information to give their children a step up to succeed and get a good education is a win for our state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pfautsch; Scott Young, Blue Springs R-IV School District; Rhonda Malone, Blue Springs R-IV; Greater Kansas City Chamber Of Commerce; City Of Kansas City; Missouri Education Reform Council; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; Alliance For Childhood Education; Cooperating School Districts Of Greater Kansas City; Missouri Council Of School Administrators; Missouri Children's Leadership Council; Pam Mitchell, St. Louis Regional Early Learning Council; Katie Rahn; Dr. Andrew Underwood, Belton School District #124; Mayor's Office, City Of St. Louis; and Missouri Kids First.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.