

HB 2575 -- TEACHER TRAINING

SPONSOR: Montecillo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill 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.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say this bill touches on a nationwide movement of trauma informed approaches. We have begun to understand how prevalent chronic stress is on both students and adults and the effects of such stress. Those children are much more likely to fail a grade and experience negative effects in regard to concentration, memory, and ability to calm or sooth themselves. Children have to feel safe to learn and teachers need to feel safe to teach. A lot of what this involves is integrating a certain set of practices and structure into what already exists by changing the question of "what is wrong with you?" to "what happened to you?" It's about very intentionally building a safe relationship between kids and adults. There are many kids who are constantly vigilant and never feel safe. This is something teachers are ready and willing to be a part of and can really make a difference. Students that don't have their personal needs met, and when those personal needs are of a greater desire than the desire to learn there are a lot of problems in the class room. Trauma informed approach is an important yet missing piece from teacher training.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Montecillo; Missouri Kids First; Rachel Greathouse, Empower Missouri; Gerald Cox; Missouri Education Reform Council; Missouri National Education Association; and AFT St. Louis Local 420.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.