

HB 254 -- STATE SCHOOL AID FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 6 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill excludes funds designated by taxpayers in an urban district as local early childhood education funds from the local tax revenue calculation used to provide funding to charter schools that have declared themselves as a local educational agency.

The bill contains an emergency clause and is similar to HB 2593 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Kansas City public schools and the Early Learning Commission have identified a need to better prepare children for kindergarten. This bill will allow Kansas City to pursue new funding for early childhood education needs, specifically pre-K.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Kansas City Public Schools, Administration; Alliance For Childhood Education; Hallmark Cards, Incorporated; Missouri Children's Leadership Council; and Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.