

HB 472 -- COLLEGE CREDIT DISCLOSURE ACT

SPONSOR: Smith (85)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill establishes the College Credit Disclosure Act, which requires a higher education institution not accredited by a recognized regional accreditor to disclose in writing during the admission application process that the institution is not accredited if it grants college-level credit. The information that is required in the disclosure is specified in the bill.

The bill exempts an institution that is affiliated with a religion if its faith-related accreditor is federally recognized. The disclosure must be signed by the student before registering for any class that grants credit.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that when it comes to accreditation there are a lot of different groups that offer it. They provide a standard to be met by universities. Regional accreditation is the peak accreditation held. Credits from non-regional accredited schools are treated much differently. This bill would make institutions that are not regionally accredited provide a form telling their students that the credits might not be transferable.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Smith.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there is not a requirement to be accredited to receive a license from the Department of Higher Education. Such accreditation might actually hurt some schools. However, if a school wants to offer a degree they must be accredited.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Department of Higher Education and Apollo Education Group - University of Phoenix.

This bill is similar to HB 2143 (2016).