

HB 888 -- SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

SPONSOR: Basye

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill modifies criminal background checks of school bus drivers to include those drivers employed by municipalities or any other entity under contract with a school district. If a school bus driver is employed by a municipality or other entity, the criminal background check shall be conducted pursuant to state laws on criminal record review.

In addition school boards are authorized to contract with municipalities for the purpose of transporting school children.

This bill is the same as SB 369 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill allows school districts to leverage municipal bus routes to save money. This is an innovative way to save school districts transportation costs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Basye; Dr. Peter Stiepleman, Columbia Public Schools; Missouri Council of School Administrators; and the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.