

HB 1161 -- ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

SPONSOR: Bahr

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) work groups to be in the public domain. Such work groups must only be comprised of members specified in the bill. Learning standards are changed to "grade-level expectations," which is defined as grade-appropriate expectations as outlined in the Missouri comprehensive guidance program.

Once convened, each work group will elect from within the group members to serve as chair and secretary, respectively. Once persons are elected for these positions, their names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and mailing addresses will be submitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, and Speaker of the House. The chair and secretary will be responsible for responding to any inquires from the listed officers of the state.

Work group members serve at the pleasure of his or her appointee. The qualifications of a work group member can be challenged, as specified in the bill.

The State Board of Education (SBE) must provide comments from public hearings on performance standards or grade-level expectations to the chairs of all work groups within seven days of any hearing. The board must also enlist the assistance of experts on a regular basis pertaining to the fiscal impacts of any changes to the assessment system authorized by Section 160.518.1, RSMo.

The procedures for the SBE to regularly receive advice and counsel are changed, as specified in the bill. An independent evaluator must provide biennial reports regarding assessments in grades three through 11 and end-of-year assessments, as specified in the bill.

The work groups convened under Section 161.855, RSMo, for developing and recommending academic performance standards must meet at least monthly. The operations of the groups are specified in the bill and the groups will coordinate to ensure seamless transition of the grade-level expectations. Work groups may establish as many grade-level expectations as believed necessary for each grade level and must meet with and collaborate with other work groups of the same grade level to ensure alignment of grade-level expectations. Before making any recommendations as to grade-level expectations or academic performance standards, the work groups must ensure that any standards developed or recommended are in compliance with show-me standards approved by the SBE, age and developmentally appropriate, clearly organized and worded for

public consumption, and aimed at promoting the general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence for the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people.

The SBE must adopt and DESE must implement the standards developed and recommended by the work groups, as specified in the bill. If the SBE declines to adopt such standards, the board must provide suggestions for improvement to the work groups.

A study must be conducted to evaluate constitutionality of any change to academic performance standards, as specified in the bill. If the rating on a school performance report is affected by the number of parents and adult students who excuse students from taking statewide summative assessments, DESE must include on the school performance report: an indication that the rating was affected by a federal law requirement, a brief explanation of the federal law requirement, and the rating the school would have received otherwise.

In the event either DESE or the SBE elects to change the way grade-level expectations are used by school districts, DESE will be required to obtain approval of any such change by the Senate and the House of Representatives during the next regular legislative session. No changes will be made during the legislative interim. Any violation under these provisions will result in a funding hold until a joint committee is appointed by the Senate and the House of Representatives to conduct a public hearing on any proposed change.