

HCS HB 1366 -- SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

SPONSOR: Basye

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 10 to 4.

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.

The bill authorizes school boards to contract with municipalities to transport high school children. The contract shall require the presence of an adult supervisor approved by the school board on any municipal vehicle transporting school children. While transporting school children, municipal vehicles shall include seating designated solely for school children.

This bill is similar to HB 888 and SB 369 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will allow school districts to save money on student transportation costs, and make more efficient use of municipal public transit systems.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Basye; Jonathan Sessions, Columbia Public Schools; Mike Trapp, City of Columbia; Missouri School Board Association; Columbia Chamber of Commerce; and the City of Columbia.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that school buses are safer for children than municipal buses.

Testifying against the bill was Brian Kelly, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.