

HB 1421 -- GIFTED EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Pfautsch

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill requires any district with an approved gifted education program to have a process, approved by the district's board of education, that outlines the procedures and conditions under which parents or guardians may request a review of the decision that determined that their child did not qualify to receive services through the district's gifted education program.

This bill also requires school districts to establish a policy that allows for the subject or whole grade acceleration of any student who demonstrates advanced performance and emotional readiness for acceleration.

This bill is the same as HCS HB 670 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that an appeals process for gifted programs will help resolve issues that can arise when students do not qualify. Supporters also say that studies show that acceleration is typically very beneficial not only for the education but also for the emotional health of accelerated children.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pfautsch; Dr. Robin Lady, Rockwood School District; Ruth Elizabeth Caplinger; Missouri NEA; and Missouri Education Reform Council.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.