

HCS HB 1435 -- GIFTED CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by vote of 11 to 0.

This bill requires school districts to establish a state-approved gifted program if 3% or more of the students are determined to be gifted. Districts with average daily attendance of 350 or fewer students are not required to have a teacher certificated to teach gifted education, but any teacher providing gifted instruction without a gifted-teaching certificate must participate in six hours per year of professional development regarding gifted services.

This bill is similar to HB 1030 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the number of children identified as gifted is increasing, while the number of gifted programs is decreasing. All children need a challenging curriculum, and it should not be optional to teach gifted children appropriately.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sommer; Missouri National Education Association; Sudhiksha Kumar; Madelyn Becker; Hannah Keely; Sabien Jamal Kent; Lenae Lazzelle, Gifted Association of Missouri; and Beth Winton.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.