

HCS HB 1455 -- CAREER OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

SPONSOR: Lauer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development 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 high schools to provide students with resources and information regarding industry-recognized certificates and credentials, in demand occupations and skills, typical salaries for trending occupations, obtaining financial assistance, and self-employment as well as resume creation, interviewing, networking, and finding job opportunities. The Department of Economic Development shall annually identify occupations that are experiencing a critical need or shortage of trained personnel.

In addition, the bill requires the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Department of Economic Development to jointly provide specific information to public institutions of higher education regarding employment trends for each credential offered and the estimated tuition and fees required to obtain the credential. The public institution shall publish this information on its website and in its course catalog, if applicable, along with its credential offerings.

This bill is similar to HB 953 (2017).

PROponents: Supporters say that this bill will provide high school and college students with necessary information for the student to be aware of career opportunities and trends, and the costs and value of obtaining a credential or other skill through higher education.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lauer; Missouri Association of Career and Technical Education; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; MSTa; Missouri NEA; and the School Administrators Coalition.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERs: Others testifying on the bill say that DESE is developing the Missouri Scorecard website that will be able to provide much of this information to students. There is a concern about the accuracy of self-reported student data, however, data from available national studies can be used.

Testifying on the bill were Paul Wagner, Council on Public Higher

Education; Jeremy Kintzel, Missouri Department of Higher Education;
and Mardy Leathers, Missouri Division of Workforce Development.