

HCS HB 1457 -- COMPUTER PROGRAMMING EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Lauer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 7 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill requires each school district, after the 2018-19 school year, to offer a course on computer programming to all high school students. The bill provides specified options for the school district to develop or use an established curriculum for the course. Students taking the course may have the course count as an elective or practical arts credit. The course shall be taught by a certified teacher and may be offered as an online course or through videoconferencing.

This bill is similar to HCB 5 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are many unfilled programming and coding jobs in the computer technology field. Currently, school districts may elect to offer programs to educate students in these fields but this bill would require them to do so. The bill will assist in preparing a ready workforce for Missouri technology industries.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lauer; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Align Ed; Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City; The Boeing Company; Gifted Association of Missouri; Tim DeClue; Missouri Biotechnology Association; and Code.Org.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say any mandates to the school districts should be reasonable.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri School Boards Association.