

HCS HB 1663 -- GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Swan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Consent and House Procedure Committee by a vote of 9 to 0.

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, this bill permits a school board or charter school to establish an academic and career counseling program in cooperation with parents and the local community that is in the best interest of and meets the needs of students in the community. Schools may use the Missouri Comprehensive School Counseling Program as a resource.

The bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop, no later than January 1, 2019, a process for recognition of a school district's academic and career counseling program.

This bill is similar to HB 187 (2017) and HB 1611 (2016).

PROponents: Supporters say that comprehensive school counseling programs are beneficial for children.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Swan; Missouri National Education Association; Susan Wesley, Missouri School Counselor Association; and Susan Perkins, Columbia Public Schools and Missouri School Counselor Association.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.