

HB 1715 -- FOSTER CHILDREN BANK ACCOUNTS

SPONSOR: Phillips

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee to Improve the Care and Well-Being of Young People by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill allows a minor who is 16 years of age or older and who is in the legal custody of the Children's Division to open a checking or savings account with the consent of the Children's Division or Juvenile Court. The minor will be responsible for paying any costs of the account or any penalties for violating terms of the account. No state department, foster parent, or entity providing case management of children on behalf of a department will be responsible for paying any fees or penalties on the minor's account.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would help normalize foster care and would give foster children better access to a job because they could cash their paychecks at a bank instead of a high-interest cashing service.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Phillips; Kids Win Missouri; Fosteradopt Connect; Department of Social Services; Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies; Kate Watson, Office of Child Advocate; Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV); and Great Circle.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.