

HCS HB 2567 -- SCHOOL SECURITY

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 8 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill creates the "Missouri S.A.F.E. (Strategic Action For Emergencies) Act." The bill establishes a 25-member "School Safety Task Force," which must be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state. The membership is specified in the bill and includes one member from the House of Representative appointed by the Speaker. Four subcommittees will be established to study, respectively, school climate and discipline, mental health and special needs of students, physical security and emergency preparedness, and substance abuse and gang intervention. The task force will complete a comprehensive annual review and assessment of state laws, rules, protocols, and minimum standards in place concerning school safety and security; study school-based mental health services funding, staffing, standards, and intervention, as well as intra- and interagency collaboration. Any legislative recommendations from the task force shall be submitted to the General Assembly by December 31st of each year.

The bill also changes the law regarding school safety training. Currently, it is optional for school districts to conduct annual active shooter and intruder response training. This bill requires every school district and charter school to establish a school safety and emergency response procedure as well as an active shooter and intruder response training program. Schools must conduct the annual active shooter and intruder response training annually.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that it is necessary for schools to be prepared in all types of emergencies.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sommer and the American Federation of Teachers-Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.