

HCS HB 2625 -- EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Rowland (155)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill prohibits the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) from creating any report relating to the Missouri school improvement program in which data from a district's regularly enrolled students are aggregated with data from students residing in such facilities that serve neglected or delinquent children. DESE shall aggregate all students residing in such facilities and issue reports as if the students and facilities were their own separate local educational agency.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that since schools do not have control over the education children receive in these facilities, those children should not be included in the schools' performance scores.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowland and Missouri School Administrators Coalition.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that usual measures of educational performance require additional context if applied to institutions serving neglected and delinquent children, because of the enormous variance in the children, and the problems these children have, over the course of any given school year.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies.