

HCS #2 HB 462 -- TEACHER EXTERNSHIPS

SPONSOR: Shields

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules - Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0. Was recommitted from the Floor to the Standing Committee on Rules - Legislative Oversight and was voted "Do Pass with HCS #2" by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill provides a definition for "teacher externship" for Section 168.025, RSMo.

The Department of Economic Development and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt requirements for teacher externships along with an equivalency schedule to allow externship hours to be considered for increases similar to graduate-level coursework on the salary schedule for districts before July 1, 2020.

This bill sunsets five years after its effective date.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the purpose of the bill is to enhance discussion with students regarding employment opportunities post-graduation. It addresses a skills gap issue by bringing practical experience into the classroom. In addition, externships are an important piece of workforce development.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shields; Patt Lilly, St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce; Missouri State Teachers Association; National Federation of Independent Business; Missouri School Boards' Association; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri National Education Association; and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Pathways for Teachers program gives about 350 grants annually to teachers to get them involved with local businesses. That program is only three days; however, this bill could provide a more long-term approach.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.