

HB 485 -- SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Dogan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill defines "accreditation standards" for Section 161.089, RSMo, and requires that the State Board of Education shall adopt modified accreditation standards for special school districts (SSD) to reflect the educational needs of SSD students by July 1, 2020.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this school is very unique in the nation and that children serviced by the special school districts (SSD) have special needs they are held to the same standard as all other schools. While the district is not looking for a "free pass" and has been fully accredited, the current Missouri state improvement plan does not mesh with the district and a more appropriate assessment should be used.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dogan; Missouri National Education Association; Donald Bohannon, Special School District; and Paul W. Bauer, Special School District of St. Louis County.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.