

HCR 13 -- ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO OFFER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

SPONSOR: Trent

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Student Accountability by a vote of 6 to 1. The motion to "Do Pass" failed by a vote of 4 to 4 by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight.

This resolution offers supporting reasons for the inclusion of religious instruction in public high schools in Missouri. The resolution encourages schools to offer to students elective courses on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and on the New Testament and their influence. The resolution further suggests that all world literature courses should include three weeks on wisdom literature from the Bible.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that encouraging the Bible courses without a religious attachment helps to teach allusions used in various literature and can also be incorporated into social studies courses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Trent; Concerned Women for America; Charles P. Steson Jr., Essentials in Education; Gina Allen, and William Adkins, Essentials in Education; and Jill Noble.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.