

HB 1738 -- EMPOWERMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

SPONSOR: Richey

This bill modifies language related to the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship tax credit. The bill raises the maximum cumulative amount of the tax credit from \$50 million to \$75 million and allows for such maximum to be adjusted for inflation and by any percentage increase provided for pupil transportation above 90% of the annual projection necessary to fully fund transportation costs in the fiscal year.

The bill modifies the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship awardable amounts from a maximum based on the State Adequacy Target (SAT) to the following:

- (1) For a student with limited English proficiency 160% of the SAT;
- (2) For a student eligible for free and reduced price lunch 125% of the SAT; and
- (3) For a qualified student with an individualized education program (IEP) 175% of the SAT

The bill clarifies that background checks are not necessary for any parent that home schools their child.

Currently, the State Treasurer must limit the number of educational assistance organizations that are certified to administer scholarship accounts to 10 in any single school year. This bill allows the Treasurer to certify one additional educational assistance organization if the total contributions to educational assistance organizations exceed \$25 million in a school year.

The bill modifies the definition of "qualified student" by removing the requirement that such student live in a county with a charter form of government or a city with at least 30,000 inhabitants and increasing the maximum income standard above the free and reduced lunch qualifier from 200% to 400%.