

HCS HB 2794 -- POSTSECONDARY PLANS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS

SPONSOR: Bangert

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Workforce and Infrastructure Development by a vote of 10 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2794.

This bill requires that students in the eighth grade complete a career assessment, meet with a school counselor, and develop a personal plan of study or individual career and academic plan (ICAP). Beginning in the 2025-26 school year students in ninth through 12th grade must annually review and complete the ICAP with the assistance of a teacher or counselor.

For Kindergarten through grade twelve, instruction in career literacy must be through lessons provided through the comprehensive school counseling program, Missouri Connections, or a comparable resource and must include no fewer than six lessons for Kindergarten through grade two; no fewer than eight for grades three through five; and no fewer than 10 for grades six to 12.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must provide each local education agency with updated career literacy resources by August first of each year; monitor the integration and implementation of the activities through student ICAP completion data; and establish an online portfolio process for student tracking and a collaborative process to help students align with graduation requirements, personal interests, labor market needs, and career goals. The bill specifies career and educational opportunities in which the Department will educate students.

The bill repeals the "Career Readiness Course Task Force" section; the task force was dissolved in 2019.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that counselors are stretched now with issues other than careers. The career readiness task force found 8th grade the ideal year for career literacy, but had a time challenge for mounting a semester-length course. Like a similar bill in Indiana, this bill shares career awareness development across all grades in smaller increments of time.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Bangert.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.