

HB 2938 -- EDUCATION REFORM

SPONSOR: Davidson

This bill establishes the "Missouri Earned Autonomy Schools Waivers Advisory Council". The membership of the council is specified in the bill and includes: three members of the House of Representatives, two to be appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the Minority Floor Leader; three members of the Senate, with two appointed by the President Pro Tem and one by the Minority Floor Leader; with the rest of the members to be appointed by the Governor.

The Advisory Council must develop a school performance review to calculate eligibility for school districts to receive waivers of State rules and regulations. Components of the school performance review include the following:

- (a) Academic performance;
- (b) Academic growth;
- (c) Academic teacher score;
- (d) Community teacher survey;
- (e) Community parent survey; and
- (f) School district resident satisfaction.

The significance for each component is outlined with the total assessment worth 100 points. Districts that earn at least 90 points for three successive years are deemed "A" level and are eligible for earned autonomy schools waivers. Districts earning less than 90 but at least 80 for three consecutive years are "B" level schools and specific expanded measures for such schools are specified in the bill.

Districts that are lower than 80 but at least 70 for three consecutive years are determined as "C" level schools and are not eligible for earned autonomy. Any district lower than 70 for one year will be designated as a "D" level district and provided interventions as specified in the bill. Districts lower than 70 for three consecutive years are "F" school districts and designated as unaccredited.

Districts that meet the criteria to be designated as an "A" level will have the district's superintendent provide a plan to the districts school board for the waiver of identified State rules and

regulations in order to promote flexibility and enhance delivery of instruction (Section 160.519, RSMo).

This bill allows school districts to issue a district teaching permit to any individual who does not currently hold a State Board of Education (SBE) issued teaching certificate. The district teaching permit allows the holder to teach only in the issuing school district unless another school district also issues permits and recognizes permits issued in this manner as part of their policy.

The bill requires districts to develop a policy listing the qualifications an individual must meet to be eligible for the teaching permit, which include, at a minimum, an associates degree and background check. The number of teachers issued a teaching permit must not exceed 25% of the total number of teachers employed in the district. If an individual is issued a teaching permit and teaches for four years, the SBE may issue a teaching certificate as specified in the bill.

Any individual who obtains a teaching permit as described within the bill will be deemed a teacher for purposes of determining minimum salary, tenure, and retirement (Section 168.029).