

HB 465 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIFE SCIENCES

CO-SPONSORS: Hanaway, Crowell, Schaaf, Dempsey, Bearden, Cooper (155), Icet, Riback Wilson (25), Jetton, Cunningham (86), Abel, Merideth, Campbell, Lowe, Ransdall, Wilson (42), Page, Curls, Brooks, Jolly

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill creates the Joint Committee on the Life Sciences to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the implementation of Missouri's strategic plan for life sciences and on actions necessary to nurture and support new and existing life science research and commercialization. Recommendations may include changes in statutes, executive branch actions and policies, and state investments and taxes. The committee may also consider improvements in the coordination of existing scientific resources, including those at colleges and universities.

The committee consists of seven representatives appointed by the Speaker and the minority floor leader of the House of Representatives and seven senators appointed by the President Pro Tem and the minority floor leader of the Senate. No more than four representatives or four senators can be from the same political party. Members serve for their entire term of office, and the chair alternates between the House of Representatives and the Senate biennially. The committee will meet at least quarterly and submit an annual report to the General Assembly by January 15.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill promotes the implementation of a strategic plan for life sciences in Missouri. The bill will have a positive impact on the Missouri economy by eliminating barriers to life sciences research, encouraging the creation of life sciences companies, and bringing about changes in Missouri's tax system to support life sciences and commercialization. Passage of the bill will allow Missouri to join a growing number of states who have developed and implemented life sciences research programs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dempsey; Citizens for a Healthy Missouri; William Romjue, President, Missouri Biotechnology Association; Kansas City Civic Council; and St. Louis Regional Growth and Commerce Association. In addition, letters of support were submitted by the University of Health Sciences of Kansas City; Kansas City Area Life Sciences

Institute; Martha W. Gilliland, Chancellor, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Coalition for Plant and Life Sciences; Children's Mercy Hospital and Clinics of Kansas City; and Donald Danforth, Plant Science Center of St. Louis.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst