

HB 584 -- Gang Resistance Education and Training Program

Co-Sponsors: Kratky, Jackson, Boykins, Muckler, Spreng, El-Amin, Wildberger, Hoskins, Hubbard, Jones

This bill imposes a \$10 surcharge on all felony court proceedings involving drugs (Chapter 195, RSMo), offenses against the person (Chapter 565), sexual offenses (Chapter 566), robbery, burglary, arson (Chapter 569), stealing (Chapter 570), and weapons (Chapter 571), except when charges are dismissed or when costs are to be paid by the state or political subdivision. The surcharge will be deposited in the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Fund, to be administered by the Department of Public Safety. The department will develop a program with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for gang resistance training in school districts which DESE determines need these programs. The program will, among other things, help children understand how gang violence affects communities and how to resolve conflicts without violence. Fifty percent of the moneys in the GREAT Fund may be used for another program which DESE is charged with creating. The Show Me Students with Character Initiative will teach traits such as honesty, self-respect, and citizenship. The provisions of the bill terminate on December 31, 2008.