

HCS HB 1152 -- TERRORISM

SPONSOR: Jackson (Wilson, 130)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs by a vote of 18 to 0.

This substitute creates the crimes of threatening the use of a weapon of mass destruction and computer dissemination of information to promote a terrorist act. The substitute defines "threat," "weapon of mass destruction," and "terrorist act." Threatening the use of a weapon of mass destruction is a class C felony for the first offense and a class B felony for second and subsequent offenses. Computer dissemination of information to promote a terrorist act is a class B felony.

The substitute also revises the crime of making a terrorist threat to include threatening conditions that cause serious public inconvenience or terror. The threat may be made by any means.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Less than \$100,000 in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that state laws concerning terrorism need to be strengthened in order to take into account various acts of terrorism, including disseminating terrorist information through computer networks, releasing hazardous substances, and committing terrorist acts which cause a serious public inconvenience and damage or destroy vital infrastructures located in a community. Changing state laws concerning terrorism will allow law enforcement officials and the courts to prosecute violators.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wilson (130); and Ron Doerge, Sheriff of Newton County.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst