

HB 1381 -- VETERANS' OUTREACH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Jackson

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

Subject to appropriations, this bill requires the General Assembly to encourage the development of veterans' outreach and education programs which promote the historical significance of veterans' military service. The programs must be approved by the Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans Commission and will be conducted inside public schools, veteran cemeteries, veteran homes, and other institutions.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2005, Unknown in FY 2006, and Unknown in FY 2007. Estimated Net Cost on Other State Funds of \$0 in FY 2005, Unknown in FY 2006, and Unknown in FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that each year, the growing number of Missouri veterans who die results in the loss of valuable historical, social, and military information contained in the life stories of the veterans. It is important to record and preserve these stories for historical and research purposes. The Library of Congress has a similar program, and it is important to establish a program in Missouri which can be used for educational and outreach purposes in local communities and in public schools.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jackson; Missouri Veterans' of Foreign Wars; and Missouri Association of Veterans' Organizations.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst