

HCS SCS SB 1225 -- ST. LOUIS POLICE OFFICER COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: Dougherty (Hubbard)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 15 to 0 with 1 present.

This substitute increases by \$1,500 the maximum amount of compensation payable to St. Louis police officers.

The substitute also creates the Police Chiefs' and Officers' Annuity Fund which will be funded by member contributions of \$20 per month and a \$7 surcharge in all criminal cases, including infractions and ordinances. The surcharge will not be assessed when the costs are waived or are paid by the state, a county, or a municipality. A six-member board of police officers and police chiefs will oversee the fund; hire an executive director; and contract for the services of an actuary, investment counsel, and certified public accountant. The fund will make payments of \$500 per month for five years to eligible members. The substitute specifies the terms of eligibility and how creditable service is determined. Eligible members can start drawing the annuity five years after its creation. An eligible member's estate or designated beneficiary may receive a death benefit of \$10,000.

The substitute also allows the board of trustees for the St. Louis Police Retirement System to establish a quorum with six board members and requires a simple majority vote of the board members present for any official action.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that because the St. Louis Police Department is under the control of the General Assembly, the legislature must approve of any changes to the police pay grid. The bill simply allows the maximum salary amounts on the pay grid to be increased. It doesn't require that any raises be given.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Dougherty; and St. Louis Police Officers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst