

SCS SB 1265 -- CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARDS

SPONSOR: Bartle (Byrd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 11 to 5.

This substitute establishes requirements for members of the Civilian Review Board, which examines claims of police misconduct. A member must be at least 18 years of age, a registered voter, and not have been convicted of any crime, whether or not a sentence is imposed.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of Unknown in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. Oversight assumes fiscal impact would be minimal.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill establishes some very basic and common-sense requirements for people serving on a civilian review board.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Bartle.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the provision that prohibits anyone who has been convicted of a crime from sitting on a civilian review board is far too restrictive. This would include anyone who has received a traffic ticket, since most traffic violations are technically misdemeanors. This provision makes it more strict than the requirement of not being convicted of a felony to work as a police officer or serve on the Board of Police Commissioners. The state should leave it to the local governmental entity to set its own requirements.

Testifying against the bill was John Chasnoff.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst