

HCS HB 119 -- STATE EMPLOYEE LIFE INSURANCE

SPONSOR: Jackson (Jones, 117)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute allows state employees and retirees who are called to military service, in times of active armed warfare, to retain life insurance benefits for the entire duration of deployment, subject to the terms and conditions of any life insurance policy in place. Employees or retirees who retain this insurance while deployed must pay for the cost of coverage.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow soldiers to retain their life insurance benefit while deployed in a combat situation. The employee is required to pay the cost of coverage, with no cost to the state. This issue was brought to the legislature's attention by a state employee who could be activated by the military for more than one year.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (117); Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Marine Corps League of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst