

HB 180 -- POLICE MILITARY LEAVE

SPONSOR: Johnson (47)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 16 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding military leave for Kansas City police officers and civilian employees. Members of the Police Retirement System of Kansas City and the Civilian Employees' Retirement System of the Police Department of Kansas City who are on leave of absence due to military service in which the United States has declared war, a compulsory draft, or the combat mobilization of any units of the military reserves are entitled to service credit for the time spent in the military service. During their military service, members are not required to pay any member contributions into the retirement system.

If it becomes necessary for the years of the service to be included in the calculation of the member's compensation, the member will be deemed to have received the same compensation throughout the period of service as the member's base annual salary immediately prior to the commencement of the leave of absence.

Eligible members who are absent because of the military leave are entitled to federal employment and re-employment rights.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow police officers who are called to active service with the military to count their time while deployed toward their police retirement. Since September 11, 2001, about 40 Kansas City police officers have been called to active military duty; and the bill will allow them to count their time in active service toward their police retirement. Most other retirement systems in Missouri, including the Police Retirement System of St. Louis, allow this. Kansas City supports the bill, and there is no cost to the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Johnson (47); City of Kansas City; and Police Retirement System of Kansas City.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst