

HB 269 -- FIREFIGHTER'S RULE

SPONSOR: Bruns

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill changes the "firefighter's rule" by allowing firefighters, police officers, or emergency medical personnel who are injured in the line of duty to recover damages from the person whose reckless, malicious, or willful act or omission caused the injury. The firefighter's rule provides that a firefighter brought in contact with an emergency situation who is injured in the line of duty may not recover against the person whose ordinary negligence created the emergency.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows firefighters and other emergency personnel to be awarded damages for injuries sustained in the line of duty due to the recklessness, maliciousness, or willful acts or omissions of another person.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bruns; Missouri State Council of Firefighter; International Association of Firefighters #671; and Professional Firefighters of Eastern Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst