

HCS HB 348 -- MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Richard (Pearce)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development by a vote of 16 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission to design and implement measures to protect, retain, and enhance the present and future mission capabilities of military posts and bases around the state.

The commission's duties will include preparing a biennial strategic plan and an annual report. The seven-member commission will meet quarterly, or more often if additional meetings are deemed necessary by the chair. Funding for the commission will be by appropriation, and the Department of Economic Development will provide administrative support staff.

The City of Knob Noster is allowed to adopt and enforce regulations regarding zoning and planning within the unincorporated area that extends two miles beyond the city's corporate limits. Zoning and planning ordinances affecting the unincorporated areas can be less restrictive than the ordinances affecting areas within the city's limits.

For the purposes of student resident status, military personnel stationed in Missouri, as well as their spouses and unemancipated children, will be regarded as Missouri residents.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$11,400 in FY 2006, \$11,742 in FY 2007, and \$12,094 in FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the federal Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) will make recommendations in May regarding which military bases should close. The bill is a proactive way to let people know that Missouri is very supportive of Whiteman Air Force Base and that we do not want it to be closed. There are two reasons for base closure: low quality of life outside the base and encroachment. The bill addresses encroachment by allowing the City of Knob Noster to control zoning in the area immediately surrounding the base and prevent a buildup of businesses and residences in the area. Many Missouri communities are supported by military bases and military families, and it is important that the state support the military. The bill is an opportunity to be proactive rather than respond to a crisis after it happens. The bill also allows

dependents of military members stationed in Missouri to receive in-state tuition at Missouri colleges and universities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pearce; City of Knob Noster; City of Warrensburg; Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce; Johnson County Commission; Missouri Municipal League; Whiteman Area Leadership Council; Central Missouri State University; Missouri Bankers Association; and Brigadier General Charles E. Kruse (Retired).

OPPOSITION: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst