

SB 304 -- POLICE MILITARY LEAVE

SPONSOR: Ridgeway (Ervin)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans Affairs by a vote of 11 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 authorizes the Kansas City Police Retirement Board to count the active duty military service of Kansas City police officers toward their retirement. Since September 11, 2001, about 40 police officers have been called to active service. The bill will give them credit in the retirement system for the time they were on active duty.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Ridgeway; Kansas City Police Employees' Retirement Systems; Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Missouri Veterans Commission.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst