

HCS SB 342 -- MUNICIPAL COURTS

SPONSOR: Bartle (Byrd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 9 to 1.

This substitute authorizes municipal courts to contract with a public entity or to employ a person to serve as the city's probation officer. Currently, municipal courts may only contract with a private entity to provide probation services. Persons found guilty of a violation of municipal ordinances and placed on probation are required to pay a service fee to the court for the probation services.

Currently, only cities which do not have probation services for persons convicted of ordinance violations may contract with private entities to provide probation services. The substitute authorizes any city to contract with a private or public entity or to employ a probation officer to provide probation services. Cities are allowed to continue their current contract with a private entity for probation services.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill allows municipal courts to contract with other entities to provide probation services.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Bartle; and City of Lee's Summit.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Amy Woods, Senior Legislative Analyst