

HB 1310 -- EMERGENCY VEHICLE PERSONNEL

SPONSOR: Lipke

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill specifies that a person commits the crimes of involuntary manslaughter in the second degree and assault in the second degree if he or she fails to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle and, in doing so, acts with criminal negligence to cause the death of any person authorized to operate an emergency vehicle while in the performance of his or her official duties. The bill increases the penalty for failing to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle from a class B misdemeanor to a class A misdemeanor.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of less than \$100,000 in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that currently drivers are required to move to the left lane when an emergency vehicle is alongside a road or highway to keep emergency personnel safer when working accidents. The bill increases the penalty for failure to move to the left from a class B to a class A misdemeanor. Drivers do not have the option of moving over or slowing down unless it is unsafe to change lanes. Educating drivers about the law is the key to avoiding more emergency personnel fatalities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lipke; Cheryl Floyd; Jennifer Sampietro; Missouri State Troopers Association; State Highway Patrol; Fire Fighters Association of Missouri; Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety; and Missouri Sheriffs' Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst