

HCS HB 1552 -- HOMELESS VETERANS

SPONSOR: Jackson (Brown, 50)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute allows a homeless veteran to use the post office box or voice mail address of certain charitable or religious organization on applications for federal or state assistance, as long as the organization is willing to provide an address to the homeless veteran for his or her use. Only organizations that have been providing legitimate services for 10 or more years are eligible to provide these services.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that veterans often qualify for some federal benefits; but in order to apply for them, they must have an address. There are a large number of homeless veterans in Kansas City. When they apply for benefits, they are turned down because they don't have an address. Organizations like the Salvation Army provide temporary housing for homeless veterans and could also provide a post office box address so that the veteran could access his or her benefits.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Brown (50) and Avery; and Pat Kerr, Support Your Troops.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst