

HB 2111 -- PRIVATE COLLEGE LAW ENFORCEMENT

SPONSOR: Hubbard

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill allows private, not-for-profit colleges and universities authorized to do business in the state and accredited by the North Central Association to appoint police officers who have the same authority given to peace officers. The college police officers are required to be certified as peace officers under Chapter 590, RSMo, before or within six months after their appointment.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill will enable Missouri to be consistent with other states that have already allowed private universities and colleges to provide high quality law enforcement services to the students, faculty, and staff that come to learn, teach, work, and do research at their campuses. It will ensure that these campuses select, train, and hire police officers of the same quality and professionalism that serve other areas in the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hubbard; Tom Johnson, Truman State University; Jack Titone, St. Louis University; Don Strem, Washington University; and Missouri Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say they are concerned about the police powers ability, and there may be a constitutional problem.

Testifying against the bill was St. Louis Police Officers' Association.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst