

HB 331 -- State Highway Patrol

Sponsor: Lipke

This bill allows the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol to direct members and other employees of the patrol to carry out any public safety duty or service authorized or appropriated by the General Assembly. The Governor nor the superintendent can order any member of the patrol to perform any duty or service not authorized under state statute. The patrol is authorized to conduct criminal background checks on gubernatorial appointees who are subject to Senate confirmation. Information received by the patrol must be kept confidential and cannot be disclosed to anyone other than the Governor and/or members of the Governor's staff as necessary to determine the appointee's qualifications.

The bill also specifies that the patrol is divided into troops rather than districts and removes the requirement that the superintendent must reside in Jefferson City.

Some of the provisions of the bill contain an emergency clause.