

CCS HB 574 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT

This bill changes the laws regarding the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners and law enforcement. The bill:

(1) Allows the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners to delegate some of its jurisdiction to hearing officers. At the board's discretion, a hearing officer may preside over disciplinary matters, submit reports to the board, and make recommendations on disciplinary matters and the appropriateness of the recommended discipline. The process for selecting hearing officers is specified. After a hearing officer presides over a matter, he or she will become ineligible to hear a case until all hearing officers have been utilized, at which time the rotation will begin again, subject to an officer's availability. The board will retain authority to render a final decision after a review of the evidence and the report of the hearing officer;

(2) Removes the requirement that a licensed physician, registered nurse, or trained medical technician must use a nonalcoholic antiseptic for cleansing the skin prior to drawing blood for the purpose of determining the alcohol content of the blood; and

(3) Requires courts to forward alcohol- or drug-related driving offense dispositions to the Department of Revenue within seven days and requires the department to forward the information to the State Highway Patrol within 15 days.

The bill contains an emergency clause regarding the use of a nonalcoholic antiseptic for cleansing the skin prior to drawing blood for the purpose of determining alcohol content.