

HCS HB 583 -- ORDERS OF PROTECTION

SPONSOR: Franz (Johnson)

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

This substitute requires the circuit clerk to notify by phone an individual who is petitioning for an ex parte order of protection when the order has been served or if no more attempts to serve are planned if the petitioner has opted to register a phone number with the victim notification system established in Section 650.310, RSMo. All attempts to serve orders of protection must be tracked by the agency responsible for serving the order.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that national data shows that when a woman seeks an order of protection, she actually becomes more vulnerable, and the bill is a way to increase the safety for those women who have chosen to proceed with a petition for an ex parte order of protection. The petitioner is given the option for notification which is an act of empowerment for the women who need to protect themselves. Because the notification system will be automated, the responsibility of law enforcement is reduced.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Johnson; Marcia Roth, Mary Byron Foundation; Jason Dodson, Lasting Solutions; Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Department of Public Safety.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.