

HCS HB 619 & 118 -- CIVIL AIR PATROL

SPONSOR: Dusenberg (Aull)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 7 to 0.

This substitute specifies the situations in which the Civil Air Patrol may be activated and states that the patrol may be used to assist National Guard noncombatant missions or missions in support of civil authorities and state agencies which have established agreements with the patrol.

Activation requests must be made to the commanding officer of the Civil Air Patrol, Missouri Wing. Prior to its activation, the commanding officer or the Adjutant General must apply for federal mission status and funding. If a mission of the patrol is granted federal mission status and assigned an accompanying federal mission number, the operation will be paid for by the federal government and members of the patrol will be considered federal employees for the purpose of tort claims arising from the mission.

If an operation is not granted federal mission status, the state will pay for the mission using funds appropriated from the state agency which requested the participation of the patrol. In this case, members of the patrol will be considered state employees for the purpose of tort claims and workers' compensation claims.

These provisions apply to any Civil Air Patrol personnel and aircraft from any state that are flying missions for Missouri state agencies.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters of House Bill 619 say that the Civil Air Patrol can fly federal missions, but cannot fly missions for the State of Missouri because they are not covered by state workers' compensation insurance. This coverage will help the patrol attract and retain qualified volunteers for flying missions and allow them to fly missions for the state which will be more cost effective than using the National Guard.

Supporters of House Bill 118 say that the bill has a minor flaw which was corrected in House Bill 619.

Testifying for HB 619 were Representative Aull; Randy Fuller, James H. Williams, and Troy M. Campbell, Missouri Wing of the Civil Air Patrol; State Emergency Management Agency, Department

of Public Safety; and Office of the Adjutant General. Testifying for HB 118 was Representative Schaaf.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on House Bill 619 say that there is a need to find out who would actually pay workers' compensation for the Civil Air Patrol, as nothing is currently budgeted.

Testifying on HB 619 was Office of the Adjutant General.