

HCS HB 851 -- ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS

SPONSOR: Nolte (Onder)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Immigration by a vote of 6 to 2.

This substitute requires that the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol designate some or all members of the patrol to be trained in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between Missouri and the United States Department of Homeland Security concerning the enforcement of federal immigration laws on federal highways and interstates in Missouri, subject to appropriation.

Law enforcement officers are required to inquire into the citizenship and immigration status of persons placed under arrest and to verify the legal status of noncitizens with the federal government.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will serve to expand the enforcement capabilities of federal immigration authorities.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Onder.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say Chapter 43, RSMo, prevents the State Highway Patrol from entering into a memorandum of understanding with federal immigration authorities regarding training unless there is authorizing legislation. The patrol should not have to take on additional responsibilities without additional funding from the General Assembly.

Testifying on the bill was State Highway Patrol.