

HCS SCS SB 44 -- PRIVATE JAILS

SPONSOR: Pearce (Hoskins, 121)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding private jails. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Specifies that a private jail is a facility not owned or operated by the state, a county, or a municipality which confines or detains prisoners;
- (2) Requires an employee of a private jail to report to the supervisor of the jail when he or she has reasonable cause to believe that a felony has been committed on the premises. The administrator of the private jail must report the felony in a timely manner to local, state, or county law enforcement;
- (3) Requires jails, in the event of an escape, to promptly notify the proper law enforcement agency and the State Highway Patrol. The private jail must provide all available information regarding the escape and the escapee to law enforcement officers;
- (4) Requires prisoners to be separated by gender and cause for incarceration;
- (5) Requires the jail administrator to arrange for necessary health care services and provide adequate food, clothing, and bedding;
- (6) Prohibits the inspection, control, or operation of private jails by any law enforcement agency; and
- (7) Specifies that anyone failing to report a felony committed in a private jail will be guilty of an infraction and subject to a civil penalty of between \$100 and \$1,000.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are two private jails operating in Missouri and the bill establishes guidelines for them to follow to make them accountable.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Pearce; Missouri Catholic Conference; and Missouri Sheriffs Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill provided information to the committee.

Testifying on the bill was Woody Cozad, Integral Correctional Consultants.