

HCS HB 1580 -- HERO AT HOME PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Day (Smith, 14)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, services provided under the Hero at Home Program include financial assistance due to reduced income after the deployment of a spouse. This substitute adds providing assistance to individuals returning to employment which they are no longer suited for and removes the deployment requirement allowing services to be provided to any military family facing financial crisis. The substitute also removes the provision which requires certain agencies to provide a 20% match to the program through indirect or direct expenditures.

The Department of Economic Development is required to submit a report on the operations and progress of the program to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem of the Senate by January 1, 2011.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Hero at Home Program is underutilized in communities, and many agencies are unwilling to participate because of the required 20% match. By eliminating the agency's match, there will be much more participation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Smith (14); Dewey Rhein, Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Missouri Department; and Department of Economic Development.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.