

SB 819 -- CIVIL AIR PATROL

SPONSOR: Lembke (Aull)

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

This bill specifies that any person who works for an employer with 50 or more employees who is or may become a member of the Civil Air Patrol and has qualified for a civil air patrol emergency service specialty or who is certified to fly counter narcotics missions must be granted a leave of absence from his or her duties, without loss of time, regular leave, or any other rights or benefits during the time he or she is performing these emergency services or missions. Leave for these services cannot be more than 15 working days in a calendar year, and the employer is not obligated to pay a salary to the employee during the leave of absence. The employer will have the right to request that the employee be exempted from responding to a specific mission, and the Missouri Wing Commander must honor that request.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill ensures Civil Air Patrol employees working for private companies, with 50 or more employees, will not lose any benefits from their employer when called to volunteer in emergencies. There are currently around 1,200 people who volunteer, without compensation, for the Civil Air Patrol.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Lembke; and Captain Michael Smith, Civil Air Patrol.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.