

HCS HB 1300 -- FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

SPONSOR: Rowden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Government Oversight and Accountability by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill authorizes a quorum of a fire protection district board to meet in person or via telephone, facsimile, Internet, or any other voice or electronic means, without public notice, in order to authorize the disbursement of funds necessary for the deployment of Missouri Task Force One or any urban search and rescue task force that is activated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Management Agency, or statewide mutual aid. The board is required to keep minutes of the emergency meeting and disclose at its next regularly scheduled meeting that an emergency meeting occurred, why it was called, and that minutes are available as a public record of the board.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the deployment of the task force must occur within strict time limits of six hours or less, and the funds for deployment must be approved before the task force is deployed. In order to be in compliance with state and federal law, the bill is necessary.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowden and David Griggs, Boone County Fire Protection District.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the bill would be stronger with a provision that requires the board to disclose information about the emergency meeting.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Press Association.