

HCS HB 181 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT

SPONSOR: Phillips

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11-0.

This bill allows conservation commission agents or water patrol deputies and members to enforce the provisions of the littering and abandoning motor vehicles statutes. This bill also requires any law enforcement officer to do so.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that these agents and deputies have been able to enforce these provisions, but that changed on January 1, 2017. It is important that they be able to resume enforcement as soon as possible.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Phillips.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that most of these agents and deputies are already patrolling the area, but they want to make sure they have the authority to enforce provisions while they're out patrolling. They have not seen a big change yet, since their inability to enforce went into effect earlier this year, because the busier time of year is when the weather warms.

Testifying on the bill was Larry Yamnitz.