

HB 522 -- INTERVENTION AND COMPLIANCE UNIT

SPONSOR: Ellington

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 6 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to establish a pilot program in the City of St. Louis and in Kansas City to address the rising serious violent crime rate in St. Louis City and Kansas City neighborhoods. The program's goals include, but are not limited to, reducing and preventing violent crime and improving safety within individual neighborhoods, creating policies and procedures to address crime recidivism, creating policies and procedures regarding crime data collection and monitoring, and developing strategies for improving mental and social service programs to address systemic needs for reducing violent crime in the City of St. Louis and in Kansas City.

The "Intervention and Compliance Unit Program" membership shall have representatives from various local governmental agencies and local organizations, specified in the bill.

This bill creates a fund, which will consist of appropriated money and voluntary donations, the State Treasurer will be the custodian of the fund. The fund shall be used solely for the implementation and execution of this program.

This bill is similar to HB 2434 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the purpose of the bill is to reduce and prevent violent crimes through the use of evidence-based procedures.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ellington; Rev. Ester L. Holzendorf, Human Dignity & Economic Justice Coalition; Empower Missouri (Formerly Missouri Association For Social Welfare); Kevin Ahlbrand, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department; and Missouri State Fraternal Order of Police.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.