

HCS SB 25 -- PUBLIC SAFETY

SPONSOR: Curls (Phillips)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 6 to 0.

KANSAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

This bill allows the chief of police for the Kansas City Police Department to appoint a lieutenant colonel who would be responsible for matters relating to homeland security and disaster communications (Section 84.514, RSMo).

This is similar to HB 752.

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES FUND

The bill increases the sales tax municipalities may levy for public health from \$.02 to \$.60 per \$100. The bill also allows St. Louis City to submit to the voters whether to levy a \$.60 tax per \$100, to be collected along with other city taxes, to be deposited in the "Public Safety Services Fund," for the purpose of providing public safety services. If the voters approve the tax, the mayor of the City of St. Louis shall appoint a board of directors, as specified in the bill, for administrative control and management of the funds in the Public Safety Services Fund and all programs funded by the fund. If the tax, special fund, and board of directors authorized by the specific sections are repealed or abolished, all remaining funds in the special fund shall be transferred to the general revenue of the City of St. Louis (Sections 92.020, 92.024, 92.025, and 92.026).

This is similar to SB 282 (2017).

AMBER ALERT SYSTEM

Currently, there are no meeting requirements for the Amber Alert System Oversight Committee. This bill requires the committee to meet at least annually to discuss potential improvements to the Amber Alert System.

The bill establishes Hailey's Law that requires the Amber Alert System to be integrated into the Missouri Uniform Law Enforcement System (MULES) and Regional Justice Information Service (REJIS) to expedite the reporting of child abductions (Sections 210.1014 and 210.1016).

This is similar to HB 697 (2017).

CLOSURE OF CERTAIN RECORDS

The bill specifies that records subject to closure under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) may be closed records if maintained by fire departments and fire protection districts (Section 320.087).

This is similar to HB 1124 (2017).

RETIRED PEACE OFFICERS

This bill establishes that any law enforcement agency in the state may supplement its workforce as necessary with qualified retired peace officers when a disaster or emergency has been declared by the Governor or when there is a national emergency, and those officers shall serve as volunteers (Section 590.210).

This is similar to HB 645 (2017).

OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATHS

Lastly, this bill requires each law enforcement agency to have a written policy regarding the investigation of officer-involved deaths. The written policy specified in the bill requires an investigation to be conducted by at least two investigators in the case of a traffic-related death; the investigation to use a crash reconstruction unit; and allows for an internal investigation.

The investigators conducting an investigation must provide a complete report to the prosecutor of the county or city not within a county in which the officer-involved death occurred (Section 590.510).

This is similar to HB 232 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Kansas City Police Department is the last police department regulated by statute. The department used to be capped at six, but last year the cap was reduced to five.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Curls and the Board of Police Commissioners of Kansas City.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.