

HB 1253 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

SPONSOR: Schroer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 7 to 1.

This bill creates the Joint Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment. The committee is made up of six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, six members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem, and four members appointed by the Governor.

The committee must meet at least once during each legislative session. The committee will conduct hearings on current and future drug and substance abuse, explore solutions to substance abuse issues, and draft or modify legislation as necessary to reach the goals of finding and funding education and treatment solutions to combat drug and substance use and abuse. The committee will send a report of recommendations for legislation to the Governor and the General Assembly each year.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the opioid crisis in Missouri is out of control, so forming a joint committee such as this one to figure out ways to address the issues is necessary. Young people need to be taught about prevention and to be taught resiliency skills. The joint committee would be able to take a stronger look and see how substance abuse could be curbed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schroer and Jenny Armbruster, NCADA.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.