HCS HB 1975 -- CONDUCT OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES

SPONSOR: Christofanelli

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Government Oversight by a vote of 6 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 4.

This bill requires that any entity created pursuant to Section 70.220, RSMo, to provide a public service to both St. Louis City and St. Louis County must be treated as a for-profit corporation for any services it provides to any individual, entity, or political subdivision other than St. Louis City and St. Louis County. The Missouri Department of Revenue may implement these provisions.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that we should ensure fair competition in data provisions services to reduce costs. Regis system has many advantages because it does not pay taxes and is not required to bid for government projects at the current time. The Regis system can charge excessive amounts in some cases because of its near monopoly status.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Christofanelli; Carl Wolf; Mayor James W. Mcgee, City of Vinita Park; and Bobby Robertson, Omnigo Software.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the current system works well and operates as a nonprofit for the benefit of local municipalities in St. Louis county. Regis system operates as nonprofit by law and supplements the statewide MULES system for police records.

Testifying against the bill was Daniel Isom, Regional Justice Information Service.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Missouri Department of Revenue would be better suited to implement the bill.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Secretary of State's Office.