

HB 2456 -- GREEN ALERT SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill creates the "Green Alert System" to aid in identifying and locating a missing endangered veteran. The Department of Public Safety must coordinate local law enforcement agencies and public television and radio broadcasters for effective implementation of the system. The system will include at least the Department of Public Safety, State Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Senior Services, and Missouri Lottery; however, participation in the system is entirely optional for local law enforcement agencies and federally licensed radio and television broadcasters.

The department will declare and administer the rules for implementation of the system.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are approximately 500,000 veterans in Missouri, and an estimated 20 veterans commit suicide every day, nationwide. Some studies show that the number is even greater. Some veterans simply go missing. This bill would put an alert in place specifically for veterans, and it is similar to the amber alert and the silver alert. Wisconsin passed similar legislation this year, and it was the first state to do so.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Sommer.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.