

SS SCS SB 652 -- COUNTY SHERIFFS

SPONSOR: Nasheed (Engler)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 6 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill modifies provisions relating to county sheriffs.

COUNTY SHERIFFS

The bill establishes that a sheriff may hire an under sheriff or deputy sheriff who is a resident of an adjoining state (Section 57.117, RSMo).

This provision is identical to HB 1892 and is similar to SS SCS SB 966 (2018).

SHERIFF'S OFFICE OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

The bill specifies that the office of the sheriff of the City of St. Louis is a law enforcement agency, and that the sheriff and sworn deputies of that office are to be considered law enforcement officers who may be eligible for training and licensure by the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission. This provision is similar to SB 451 and HCS HB 878 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this would allow the sheriff and the sheriff's deputies in the city of St. Louis to be on a level playing field with all other sheriffs and deputies in the state. They put their lives on the line daily, yet they have no power of arrest. They would like to be able to assist other departments in performing their duties. This would also allow the department to apply for federal grants.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Nasheed; Regional Strategies City of St. Louis; James O Toole, Sheriff's Office; Missouri Sheriff's Association; and Gregg Christian, Sheriff's Office of St. Louis.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.