

HB 558 -- POST COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Toalson Reisch

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 6 to 1.

This bill requires the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission to establish a point conversion system to award basic training credit to reserve or active duty members of the Armed Forces or National Guard who complete military basic training hours, including advanced individual training at the United States Army Military Police School. The POST Commission's authority and duties regarding this system are specified in the bill.

This bill is the same as HB 1638 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that every day in this state we have approximately 2,000 law enforcement openings. There has been a lot of turnover and it has been difficult to find police officers in this day and age. Fort Leonard Wood had a program that allows military members who have law enforcement training to do law enforcement work. It allows them to take a test to be POST certified. When military members return from deployment, they need jobs to support their families and this would help. It allows POST to implement a crash course to allow military members to be POST certified.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Toalson Reisch.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that currently, if you have military police training, you receive points toward POST certification. The culmination of the points allows them to take a test to be POST certified. A license plus the commission makes a person a law enforcement officer. Some of the best officers have come from the military.

Testifying on the bill were the Missouri Department of Public Safety; and the Missouri Police Chiefs Association.