

HB 661 -- CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

SPONSOR: Morse (151)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 6 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 4 to 3.

This bill specifies that in addition to any other conditions that may be imposed for probation, a judge may consider assigning the defendant to roadside cleanup as a condition of probation when the judge deems it to be appropriate.

This bill is the same as HB 2549 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this simply allows a judge to consider assigning a person sentenced to community service to trash pick up if the judge chooses. Judges already do this but there is no harm in adding a specific reference in statute.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morse and David Evans.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that there should be more of a focus on assigning people sentenced to community service to assignments that would increase their employability. Assigning individuals to trash pick up will not increase their employability and it does nothing to make amends to those the individuals harmed. There are more fruitful areas individuals could be assigned to.

Testifying against the bill was Empower Missouri.