

HCS HB 1177 -- MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCES

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 8 to 0.

Currently, a police board of a city not within a county requires personnel to retain a primary residence within the city; this bill modifies that requirement by requiring commissioned and civilian personnel of the St. Louis City Police Department to maintain a primary residence within the city for a total of five years before being allowed to maintain a primary residence outside the city but within a one-hour response time.

Currently, this bill only applies to St. Louis City Police Department.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that they have heard from various officers and departments that they like to help whenever they can but sometimes they do not want to live in the city where they work. For example, having to arrest someone and then seeing the same person in the local store can cause problems. It also has to do with the school system in the city. Furthermore, the St. Louis Police Department is having a difficult time hiring people. Usually, when someone calls the police, that person does not care where the officer lives; that person cares about getting a professional officer. The police department is not fully staffed so this is hurting the department's ability to police effectively.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hicks and the St. Louis Police Officers' Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.