

## HCS HB 1316 -- MILITARY FAMILIES

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Veterans by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1316.

This bill modifies provisions and creates new programs relating to military families.

### LEGAL AID TO MILITARY AND FAMILIES

This bill requires the Attorney General to design, implement, and oversee a program to help military service members and their families find and retain affordable and qualified legal counsel in this state. The program will be marketed to attorneys, service members, and service members' families. The Attorney General will collaborate with the Missouri Bar in administering the program, and the program will publicize pro bono legal services available to military service members and their families (Section 27.115, RSMo).

### TEACHER LICENSES

Currently, a spouse of a military service member is allowed a provisional teaching certificate if the applicant meets the current required criteria. This bill makes the provisional certificate valid for three years.

The bill requires that within 30 days of receiving application from a military spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to the state of Missouri, or who has been transferred or is scheduled to be transferred to an adjacent state and is or will be domiciled in the state of Missouri, or has moved to the state of Missouri on a permanent change-of-station basis and has successfully completed the background check, described in the bill, the state board will issue to such applicant a full certificate of license to teach, provided that the applicant has paid all necessary fees and has otherwise met all requirements to be issued such a certificate (Section 168.021).

### MO HEALTHNET COVERAGE OF SERVICE MEMBERS' FAMILIES WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

This bill extends MO Healthnet developmental disability services to military service members and their families stationed in Missouri that are not residents of this state, as long as they would otherwise be eligible. MO HealthNet developmental disability services to military service members and their families that are residents of this state, but temporarily reside out of the state, will have benefits temporarily suspended, but will be immediately restored upon returning to the state to reside (Section 208.151).

#### NOTIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN THE EVENT A MILITARY MEMBER IS A SUSPECT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

This bill requires the Children's Division within the Department of Social Services upon receipt of a report of child abuse to attempt to ascertain whether or not the suspected perpetrator is a member of the military, and the Children's Division must report its findings to the most relevant program authorized by the Department of Defense or the most relevant person authorized by the Department of Defense (Sections 210.109 and 210.150).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the United States Department of Defense has requested that states work with them on these four issues that they deem as a priority. These four key points are: assisting in helping service members and their families find affordable legal services, making it easier for spouses to receive teacher certifications, assisting dependents of service members with developmental disabilities, and sharing information with the state's Children's Division.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Sommer.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.