

HCS HB 1331 -- CHANGE OF VENUE FOR CAPITAL CASES

SPONSOR: Veit

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 16 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1331.

This bill creates the "Change of Venue for Capital Cases Fund", which will consist of money appropriated by the General Assembly. Money in the fund is to be used solely for reimbursement to a county that receives a capital case from another county. At the conclusion of a capital case for which the venue was changed from one county to another, the county that received the case may apply to the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) for reimbursement of any costs associated with sequestering jurors. If a county is eligible for reimbursement, OSCA shall disburse the money to the county. If OSCA determines that a county is not eligible for reimbursement, the county in which the capital case originated shall be responsible for reimbursement.

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 Cole County receives many capital murder cases and ends up having to shell out money to sequester juries and the county never receives any money in return, so this bill sets up a fund to allow counties to be reimbursed when a capital cases is transferred from one county to another.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Veit and Jon Beetem.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.