

HCS HJR 103 -- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SPONSOR: Schnelting

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 6 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 103.

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment would establish a "Department of Defense" in charge of the Adjutant General appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, charged with providing the state militia and other defense and security mechanisms as may be required.

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 48 other states have this, a state "cabinet-level" position with a department to ensure safety and security. It does not make sense that in a time of emergency or disaster that the adjutant general should have to go through the chain of command in the Department of Public Safety to be heard by the Governor or the Legislature.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Schnelting.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.