

HB 898 -- HATE CRIMES AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRST RESPONDERS

SPONSOR: Cook

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill adds a victim's employment as a law enforcement officer or first responder to motivations for offenses to be considered hate crimes.

This bill is similar to SB 74 (2021).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that firefighters and other emergency responders work on scenes to help keep us safe, and it is frightening that people think it is okay to assault law enforcement officers and first responders. Hopefully, with this bill, people who want to assault officers or first responders will think twice. It is a hate crime to assault people because of their uniforms.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cook; Missouri Fraternal Order of Police; St. Louis Police Officers Association; and Kansas City Fraternal Order of Police.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.