

HCS HB 998 -- USE OF FORCE

SPONSOR: DeGroot

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 998.

This bill establishes the "Police Use of Force Transparency Act of 2021", which provides that all law enforcement agencies must, at least annually, collect and report local data to the National Use of Force Data Collection through the Law Enforcement Enterprise portal administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on use-of-force incidents involving peace officers. Law enforcement agencies must also report such data to the Department of Public Safety. Information collected and reported must not include personally identifying information of individual officers. By June 30, 2022, the Department must develop standards and procedures governing the collecting and reporting of the data. The Department must publish the data reported by law enforcement agencies, and the data will be considered a public record, consistent with state law. The Department must analyze trends and disparities in the data and report the findings and make the report available to the public no later than January 1, 2025.

The provisions of this bill have a delayed effective date of January 1, 2022.

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 FBI has created a national database and, so far, four other states have taken advantage of it. Half of the states that use it have reported no costs associated with it. The Department of Public Safety, which they want to change it to, is better equipped than the Attorney General's office to handle it. It is time for this act and time to establish this database in Missouri. It is intended to give our citizens an understanding of what "use of force" is as used by a law enforcement officer. Citizens will know how often use of force is used, and it will not reveal any personal information of officers; it will just reveal what agency the officer came from. We want a better idea of where our hot-spots are and where we need to fix issues. We hear about all the bad incidents involving officers but

we never hear all the positive things. A majority of law enforcement agencies will get behind this legislation because they do a lot of positive things and most agencies and officers do not want to be working with "bad apple" officers either. There is currently a dangerous narrative; a majority of Americans don't trust law enforcement. People think the isolated incidents are the majority of interactions. Data is going to help improve policing and trust in policing, so this bill is very important.

Testifying for the bill were Representative DeGroot; Jewish Community Relations Council; Missouri Fraternal Order of Police; Jared Meyer, Cicero Action; Arnie C. Dienoff; American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri; and the Missouri Police Chiefs Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill submitted written testimony, which can be found online.

Testifying against the bill was Kevin Merritt, Missouri Sheriffs United.

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.