

HB 132 -- MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Griffith

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

As specified in this bill, the Missouri Veterans Commission must review the provisions of the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019, and any regulations related thereto. After review, the Commission, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, must provide recommendations and make efforts to adopt procedures, programs, treatment options, additional aid, and any other assistance deemed necessary by the Commission to assist in the efforts to prevent veteran suicide, subject to appropriation. On or before June 30, 2024 and by every June 30th thereafter the Commission must file a report with the Department of Public Safety and the General Assembly on the recommendations, implementation, and effectiveness of the efforts by the Commission to prevent veteran suicide.

This bill is the same as HB 2455 (2022).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the veterans suicide rate is rising and Missouri has one of the highest rates in the country. This bill would make the Veterans Commission collect data to find out what we are doing to prevent veteran suicides. That data will help to find out where we can improve as a state to prevent veteran suicides.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Griffith.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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