

HCS HBs 1108 & 1181 -- PUBLIC SAFETY

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 2 and one voting Present. Voted "Do Pass with HS" by the Standing Committee on Legislative Review by a Vote of 9 to 0.

Please see the Summary Sheet for a detailed list of the additional updated language in added to the House SubstituteHouse Committee Substitute.

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 this bill ensures further protections for children and the mentally disabled from the sex offenders who committed these offenses against them. The bill requires people who have committed offenses against these groups of victims, the vulnerable population, to be lifetime registrants on the sex offender registry. There is funding that is tied to Missouri's adherence to the federal guidelines, and we have to make sure Missouri stays within those guidelines. This bill ensures compliance and forward thinking in case the federal standards change. Adding offenses committed against adult incapacitated individuals is necessary because they often have the cognitive capacity of a child so we should treat the vulnerable people the same. From a public safety standpoint, the registry is there to protect the victims, so there should not be a distinction between a 16-year-old and a 12-year-old. Child sex cases are the worst possible, and the reality is that people who commit offenses against minors do not have a distinction between a child, which pertains to those under the age of 14, or a minor, which pertains to those under the age of 18. A minor is a minor. The biggest issue right now is the number of people that are not registering. They are out there still molesting children. It is a compulsion-type behavior, where these offenders cannot stop themselves and they need to be on the registry so they can be held accountable.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Hicks; Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; and Missouri Office of Prosecution Services.

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.