

HCS SS SCS SBs 189, 36 & 37 -- CRIMINAL LAWS

SPONSOR: Luetkemeyer (Roberts)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 9 to 3, with 2 voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 3.

This bill modifies provisions regarding criminal laws.

Please see the Summary Sheet for a detailed list of additional language added to the bill in committee.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the Senate Perfected version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the original bill was Max's Law, which is about injuring or killing a law enforcement canine. It enhances the penalties for the offense. Other provisions were added in committee and on the floor. In 2000, Congress passed a federal animal protection act, so if a person hurts or kills a police animal that is connected to the federal government, he or she is subject to imprisonment of up to 10 years. These dogs go through an annual certification and recertification. If they do not pass the certification, they do not work. Dual-purpose animals could still work their other purpose until they pass the certification for the first purpose. Language about expungement should be added and there is an issue with the Highway Patrol getting language to a non-law enforcement agency so they want to make some changes to it.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Luetkemeyer; Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; Missouri Office of Prosecution Services; United States Police Canine Association - Region 16; and William Shoehigh.

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 "House Testimony on Senate Bills" on the House website.