

HCS SS SB 245 -- PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

SPONSOR: Arthur (Evans)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 245.

Currently, any funds available from government grants, private gifts, donations, bequests, or other sources made to the Office of the Public Defender are deposited into the General Revenue Fund. This bill creates the "Public Defender - Federal and Other Fund" and provides that funding from any government grants, private gifts, donations, bequests, or other sources shall be deposited into such fund.

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, currently, the Public Defender's Office can make request for money, but the money goes into the General Revenue Fund, and it cannot be guaranteed to be re-appropriated to that office. This bill creates a specific fund for this to go to so it goes to the Public Defender's Office.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Arthur; and The Missouri Bar.

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.