

HB 1784 -- SHERIFF OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

SPONSOR: Perkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 5 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1.

Currently, sheriffs other than the sheriffs of the City of St. Louis and of St. Louis County are required to hold a valid peace officer license to be eligible to hold the office of sheriff. This bill repeals the provision excluding the sheriff of the City of St. Louis, thus requiring him or her to have a valid peace officer license to qualify to be sheriff.

The bill also requires the annual salary for sheriffs' deputies in the City of St. Louis to be at least \$50,000, and it requires the sheriff to fix the salaries for deputy assistants.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will prevent unqualified candidates from seeking the Office of sheriff. This bill will positively impact the crime rate in the city of St. Louis by bringing in qualified candidates. The salary increase will also help retain the workforce.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Perkins; Missouri Sheriffs United; Vernon Betts, St. Louis Sheriff's Office; Timothy Hail; Department of Sheriff City Of St. Louis.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the deputies are leaving not just because of the poor salary, but because of the poor treatment under the current leadership.

Testifying in person against the bill was Alfred Montgomery.

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.