

HCS HB 2064 -- CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

SPONSOR: Black

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill adds mental health courts to the list of treatment court divisions, defined as a court focused on addressing the mental health disorder or co-occurring disorder of defendants charged with a criminal offense. The bill specifies that a mental health court may be established by any circuit court to provide an alternative for the judicial system to dispose of cases that stem from a mental health disorder or co-occurring disorder.

This bill adds provisions relating to civil proceedings. Please see the Summary Sheet for a detailed list of the additional language added in the House Committee Substitute of the House bill.

The HCS contains provisions from HB 1718, HB 1745, HB 1838, HB 1855 HCS HB 1886, HB 1958, HB 1969, HB 2109, HB 2194 and HB 2382 (2024).

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill includes within treatment courts an authorization for what is known as mental health courts. This would allow a court focusing on criminal offenses committed by defendants with mental health disorders, which would include any criminal offense where there is a mental health issue present. These alternative courts have positive effects on the individuals and the community as far as public safety because the defendants are removed from the recidivism cycle so they are better able to engage in the community. Missouri is a leader in treatment courts. Many of the treatment courts are supported by local courts. Some jurisdictions have co-occurring courts, where substance abuse and mental health diagnosis are both present.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Black; Judge Cotton Walker, Judicial Conference Of Missouri; and the Missouri Association of Counties.

OPPOSERS: 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.