

HCS HB 2079 -- INCARCERATION COSTS

SPONSOR: Brown (149)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 8 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2079.

Currently, the State reimburses jails for the actual cost of incarceration of each prisoner up to \$37.50 per day per prisoner.

This bill raises that amount to a minimum of \$40 per day per prisoner.

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 the actual cost of housing prisoners varies by year and location, averaging about \$75/day. The State appropriates this reimbursement during the budget process, paying roughly \$22.50 per day per prisoner. The cost of this service has far outpaced the amount of reimbursement. Counties don't house prisoners on county charges. All of these offenders are being held for breaking State law, so the State has an obligation to help counties pay to house them. This is a necessary public service and needs to be better funded.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Brown; Greene County; Jackson County; Missouri Sheriffs United; Winton Policy Group, St. Louis County and the Missouri Association of Counties.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill described the Department of Corrections' budget process and the way funds are allocated to different counties.

Testifying in person on the bill was the Department of Corrections.

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.