

HB 2701 -- HIGHWAY PATROL SALARIES

SPONSOR: Copeland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Public Policy by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

Currently, the salary schedule report prepared by the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol must include a comparison of the three largest police departments in the State. This bill requires the report to also include a comparison of the salaries and benefits of police officers employed by the law enforcement agencies specified in the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Highway Patrol is losing members because of the poor salary. Currently, the Highway Patrol is understaffed because members are leaving for other Departments within the State and to Highway Patrols in neighboring states that pay more. When you look at the eight surrounding states of Missouri, we are 7th out of the nine states in terms of the highest paid troopers. Missouri is competing against neighboring states in trying to retain the members of our Highway Patrol.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Copeland; and Lance McLaughlin, Missouri State Troopers Association.

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.