

HCS HBs 954 & 1447 -- RIGHTS OF MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS

SPONSOR: Boykin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces by a vote of 18 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 954 & 1447.

This bill extends Federal protections of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) currently in Federal law for Federal servicemembers to members of the Missouri National Guard who are called to active state duty by the Governor or adjutant general and any Missouri employees who are members of the National Guard of another state and are called to active state duty by the Governor or adjutant general of that state, upon being relieved of such duty.

This bill allows members of the Missouri National Guard or any Missouri employee who is a member of the National Guard of another state who believes his or her rights have been violated to bring suit in any court of competent jurisdiction and appropriate venue. The office of the Attorney General can also bring suit against an employer who violates the provisions of this bill.

This bill is similar to HB 2235 (2024) and HB 566 (2023).

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 this puts protections into law for our National Guard servicemembers while they are called to active duty. We need to make sure they aren't having to worry about legal and financial matters while they are serving our State and country.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Boykin; Missouri National Guard Association; Joseph Clarkson, IBEW Local 1 Veterans Committee.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say this bill puts language into law in Missouri acknowledging the protections our National Guard servicemembers already have under the Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

Testifying in person on the bill was Nick Humphrey, Missouri National Guard.

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.