

HCS SB 189 -- EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Brown (16)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs by a vote of 11 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 189.

CLEARANCE RATES (Section 43.505 & 650.040)

This bill creates provisions related to law enforcement "clearance rates", defined in the bill as the rate at which law enforcement agencies conduct an "offense cleared by an arrest" or an "offense cleared by exceptional means", also defined in the bill.

This bill requires law enforcement agencies in the State to collect data documenting clearance rates and report the data on a monthly basis to the Department of Public Safety beginning on January 1, 2026. The Department must publish the information quarterly on its website by the 15th of the month following the close of the preceding quarter. Beginning January 1, 2027, the Department must report the information to the Governor, the Missouri Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Commission, the chair of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Civil and Criminal Jurisprudence and the chair of the House of Representatives on the Crime and Prevention and Public Safety Committee, and the chair of the House of Representatives on the Judiciary Committee by July 1, 2027, and every July after. The report must also be available on the Department's website.

The bill creates the "Missouri Violent Crime Clearance Grant Program", within the Department of Public Safety, for the purpose to improve law enforcement strategies and initiatives aimed at increasing violent crime clearance rates. The bill describes eligible uses for grant funding, as well as to which law enforcement agencies the Department will give priority in awarding grants. Agencies awarded grant funding must report to the Department annually on the activities carried out to reduce violent crime and improve clearance rates during the preceding fiscal year, as specified in the bill.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE PERSONS (Sections 43.656, 67.2540, 168.071, 210.1080, 210.1505, 324.012, 329.050, 339.100, 455.010, 455.035, 455.513, 491.075, 491.641, 492.304, 537.046, 537.047, 537.054, 542.301, 556.039, 566.010, 566.147, 566.148,

566.149, 566.150, 566.151, 566.155, 566.201, 566.210, 566.211, 566.218, 567.030, 573.010, 573.023, 573.025, 573.035, 573.037, 573.038, 573.050, 573.052, 573.215, 589.042, 589.400, 589.414, 610.021, 610.131, 650.120, and 660.520)

This bill replaces the term child pornography with child sexual abuse material throughout statute, but child pornography as it will have existed prior to the effective date of this legislation will still be subject to the provisions of the relevant statutes.

The bill also establishes the "Statewide Council Against Adult Trafficking and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" to replace the "Statewide Council on Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children", which expired on December 31, 2023. The new council must be created within 30 days of August 28, 2025, is required to meet at least quarterly, and is within the Office of the Attorney General. The members of the council are specified in the bill and includes two members of the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives. The Council is also required to have an executive director, who must be appointed by the Attorney General, and whose compensation will be set by the Attorney General.

The bill creates the "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Education and Awareness Fund", of which the State Treasurer will be the custodian and of which the Treasurer is required to approve disbursements as required by the Attorney General. Money in the Fund will be used to pay for the position of the executive director and administrative support for the Statewide council, education and awareness regarding human trafficking, and anti-trafficking efforts throughout the State.

Currently, under certain circumstances, a statement made by a child under the age of 14 or a vulnerable person, or the visual and aural recording of a verbal or nonverbal statement of the child or vulnerable person, is admissible in evidence in criminal proceedings as substantive evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted. This bill increases the age to a child under the age of 18 and amends the definition of "vulnerable person" to include a person whose developmental level does not exceed that of an ordinary child of 17 years of age, increased from 14 years of age.

Currently, any law enforcement agency can provide for the security of witnesses and others in criminal proceedings or investigations. This bill allows any prosecuting or circuit attorney's office to provide such security as well. The Department of Public Safety can authorize funds to be disbursed to law enforcement agencies and

prosecuting attorneys' offices for such offices to be able to provide security.

This bill provides that a nondisclosure agreement by any party to any child sexual abuse claim is not judicially enforceable in a dispute involving any child sexual abuse claim, and must be null and void; this section will apply to any action commenced on or after August 28, 2025.

Currently, a person can file a cause of action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by sexual exploitation of a minor, the promotion of child sexual abuse material within the first or second degree, or the possession of child sexual abuse material, within 10 years of the plaintiff turning 21 years old or within three years of discovering the cause of the injury or illness. This bill changes that time frame to 20 years of the plaintiff turning 21 years old.

The bill authorizes a person to file a cause of action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by child sex trafficking within 20 years of the plaintiff turning 21 years old or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers, or reasonably should have discovered, that the injury or illness was caused by child sex trafficking.

The bill creates a 20-year statute of limitation for prosecution of certain sex and labor trafficking offenses, as described in the bill.

Currently, a person 21 years old or older commits the offense of enticement of a child if he or she satisfies the elements of the offense and the child is under 15 years old. This bill increases the age of the child to under 17 years old.

This bill allows a prosecuting or circuit attorney to request assistance from the Attorney General to assist in prosecution of child sex trafficking cases and request any resource or capability of the Attorney General when prosecuting such cases.

The bill changes the age of a person upon whom a person commits the offense of sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree from under the age of 12, to under the age of 14. The term of imprisonment for this offense in the first degree remains life imprisonment, but the bill changes the offender's eligibility for probation or parole to 30 years served from the current 25 years.

The bill specifies that the term of imprisonment for the offense of sexual trafficking of a child in the second degree when it is committed by a parent, legal guardian, or other person having

custody or control of a child is "life imprisonment", which, in this instance, means for the duration of the person's natural life. Notwithstanding the above qualification, the term of imprisonment for this offense in the second degree is changed from at least 10 years to at least 20 years.

Any real or personal property that was used, attempted to be used, or intended to be used to commit a certain unlawful sexual offense can be seized and remaining proceeds from the sale of the seized property owned by the defendant will be first allocated to pay an order of restitution to a victim of human trafficking and any remaining funds will be deposited into the Anti-Trafficking Fund.

Currently, the offense of patronizing prostitution is a class D felony if the individual the person patronizes is 14 years of age or younger, and a class B misdemeanor, unless the individual the person patronizes is under 18 years of age but above the age of 14. This bill increases the penalty to a class B felony if the individual the person patronizes is 15 years of age or younger and modifies the age range for the misdemeanor to be under 18 years of age but older than 15 years of age.

The term "child sexual abuse material" now includes any anatomically correct doll, mannequin, robot, or any other item meant to resemble a minor under 18 years of age and intended to be used for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any person or for the purpose of terrorizing or causing emotional distress to any person.

This bill authorizes a public governmental body to close records that contain individually identifiable information of a minor 17 years and younger, held by a city, town, village, or park board, except when the records are requested by the Division of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for the purpose of enforcing Chapter 294 RSMo, regarding child labor.

Currently, a person who was convicted of the offense of prostitution, who was under the age of 18 at the time of the offense can apply to the appropriate court to have his or her record expunged. This bill repeals the requirement that the person be under the age of 18 at the time of the offense.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (Sections 43.546, 168.014, 190.106, 208.222, 209.324, 210.482, 210.487, 301.551, 324.055, 324.129, 324.246, 324.488, 324.1105, 326.257, 330.025, 331.025, 332.015, 334.015, 334.403, 334.501, 334.701, 334.739, 334.805, 335.022, 335.042, 336.025, 337.018, 337.308, 337.501, 337.605, 337.702,

338.052, 339.015, 339.510, 345.016, 374.711, 436.225, 443.702, 476.802, 484.125, 590.060, and 640.011)

This bill provides that certain agencies, boards, or commissions can require fingerprint submissions for application for certain licenses. If fingerprints are required for licensure, the agency, board, or commission must require applicants to submit fingerprints to the State Highway Patrol for the purpose of conducting a State and Federal fingerprint-based criminal history background check. The fingerprints and any required fees must be sent to the State Highway Patrol's central repository and will be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct a Federal background check. The State Highway Patrol must notify the agency, board, or commission of any criminal history record discovered on the applicant for licensure.

These provisions are the same as HB 992 (2025) and SB 636 (2025), and similar to SCS SB 875 (2024), SCS HCS HB 1659 (2024), and HCS HB 1800 (2024).

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FROM FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS (Section 44.087)

This bill provides that the chief law enforcement executive for any law enforcement agency can request assistance from a law enforcement agency of another United States jurisdiction outside this State. An offender arrested by a foreign law enforcement agency must be delivered to the first available law enforcement officer in the jurisdiction of the arrest. The law enforcement officers must remain employees of their respective agencies for the purposes of immunity, workers' compensation, and other employment-related matters. However, certain governmental immunities will apply as interpreted by the Federal and State courts of the responding agency.

SHERIFF OF ST. LOUIS CITY (Sections 57.010 and 57.530)

This bill modifies provisions relating to the St. Louis City sheriff.

The bill requires any candidate for the office of sheriff of St. Louis City to hold a valid peace officer license within two years of being elected as sheriff. This bill sets the minimum compensation for the deputy sheriffs of the City of St. Louis to \$50,000 and the sheriff must set the compensation for deputy assistants.

SCHOOL ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES (Section 160.775)

The bill requires any school bullying policy to include that a statement regarding any student who engages in self-defense must be considered by the school district or charter school administration when determining any disciplinary action for a student who was responding to an act of school violence or violent behavior committed against the student. The bill requires charter schools to adopt, and school districts to update current school bullying policies.

Currently, employee's who witness an incident of bullying must report the incident within two days. This bill lowers the reporting requirement to one day and requires that all reported incidents be submitted in writing. Results of investigations must include a description of any interventions, initiatives, techniques, or discipline provided to all individuals involved on a standardized form developed by the district.

The policy is required to outline a procedure for responding to an investigation that finds an act of bullying has occurred. The procedure must include notifying the parents of the bullying student and a referral to law enforcement or to the Children's Division, for a student that is under 11 years old, if the investigation finds that the bullying was 2nd degree harassment. Additionally, students committing acts of bullying are included in educational trainings and prevention initiatives.

The bill requires the policy to outline annual mandatory training for any district employee and volunteer that has contact with students; training on appropriate interventions and associated liability for action or inaction must be included in the training.

This bill requires the school administration to report monthly to the school board all acts of bullying, discipline for bullying, and all other disciplinary referrals. The school board must review the monthly report in a closed meeting and address concerns related to reported incidents within 30 days.

The bill provides immunity from liability for any school district employee and volunteer who intervenes in an incident of school violence, violent behavior, or criminal actions against any student that is a victim of bullying; the bill specifies that the employee must follow the proper procedure and act in good faith to intervene under the defense of justification provided under Chapter 563.

The bill provides protection from civil liability for any school district or charter school for disciplinary actions if the procedures were properly followed and if a suit is brought the school can recoup attorney's fees if they prevail.

This bill requires that for reporting requirements for mandated reporters under Section 210.115, bullying, incidents of school violence, and crime, are considered abuse and required to be reported, with protections provided for reporting compliance.

The bill prevents charter schools from expelling or transferring a student out of the school solely due to reports of bullying.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC SERVICES (Section 190.098)

This bill requires any ambulance service seeking to provide community paramedic services, as defined in the bill, outside of its ambulance service area and in the service area of another ambulance service, to have a memorandum of understanding with the secondary ambulance service regarding the provision of such services.

The bill permits the provision of community paramedic services without a memorandum of understanding in the service area of an ambulance service not providing such services, but notification must be provided with the ambulance service possessing service responsibilities in the service area.

This bill permits any emergency medical response agency to provide community paramedic services within its designated response service area if the ground ambulance service covering the area, within which the emergency medical response agency is located does not provide community paramedic services.

If the ground ambulance service does provide community paramedic services, it can establish a memorandum of understanding with the emergency medical response agency planning to offer such services in order to coordinate programs and avoid duplication of services.

If community paramedic services are being provided in a service area by an emergency medical response agency in that service area before the ground ambulance service begins to offer community paramedic services, there must be a memorandum of understanding established for the proper coordination of services.

A community paramedic program is required to notify the local ambulance service when providing services within the area of an ambulance service.

The Department of Health and Senior Services will establish the regulations for recognizing community paramedic service entities that have met the specified standards. Any community paramedic services entity that meets these standards will be given an

endorsement by the Department that allows the entity to provide community paramedic services for five years.

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (Section 190.101)

This bill modifies provisions relating to the State Advisory Council on Emergency Medical Services.

The bill changes the number of council members from 16 to no fewer than 13, removes the requirement that one member must be a resident of a city not within a county, and updates the criteria for member appointment, detailed in the bill.

This bill changes the procedure for electing a chairperson by removing the designation of the chairperson by the Governor and instead requiring the council to elect the chairperson or any other officer as deemed necessary.

The bill removes a provision stating that the regional EMS advisory committees are to serve as a resource for identifying potential members of the council.

NEWBORN SAFETY INCUBATORS (Section 210.950)

Currently, newborn safety incubators are authorized to be installed in certain locations for a relinquishing parent to leave a newborn child, up to 45 days of age, without fear of prosecution.

This bill modifies the age limit of a newborn infant that can be brought to a newborn safety incubator from 45 days old to 90 days old. Additionally, the bill creates the "Safe Place for Newborns Fund", and provides that the State of Missouri will match moneys from the General Revenue Fund, in the amount of up to \$10,000 per installation of newborn safety incubators.

PROBATION OFFICER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (Section 217.721)

The bill requires a probation officer to report a probation violation to the court that placed the offender on probation and to the office of the prosecuting attorney by the last day of the calendar month in which the violation occurred.

LINE OF DUTY COMPENSATION ACT (Sections 287.243 and B)

Current law provides that the Line of Duty Compensation Act expires on June 19, 2025. This bill extends the sunset date to December 31, 2031.

This bill contains an emergency clause for this provision.

FEES COLLECTED BY THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION (Section 292.606)

This bill extends the authority of the Missouri Emergency Response Commission to collect fees from August 28, 2024, to August 28, 2031. It authorizes a one-time fee to be assessed, which is to be calculated based on filings due March 1, 2025, and is to be paid by November 1, 2025.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES (Sections 300.100 and 304.022)

Currently, the driver of an emergency vehicle can disregard certain traffic rules and regulations if certain visual or auditory signals are performed.

This bill provides that a police vehicle is not required to use an audible or visual signal when obtaining evidence of a speeding violation where the speed limit is set by State statute, when responding to a suspected crime in progress when use of such signal could reasonably result in the destruction of evidence or escape of a suspect, or when conducting surveillance of a vehicle or the passengers of a vehicle who are suspected of involvement in a crime.

CATALYTIC CONVERTERS (Sections 301.218, 407.300, 570.030, and 570.031)

Currently, a person who engages in the business of salvaging, wrecking, or dismantling vehicles for resale of the parts thereof must be licensed by (DOR). This bill modifies this provision to include those persons who engage in the buying or selling of catalytic converters or the component parts of catalytic converters.

Currently, all dealers of junk, scrap metal, or other secondhand property must keep records of certain transactions. This bill requires that in addition to existing pieces of information, all records of the purchase or trade-in of a detached catalytic converter must include:

- (1) Either proof that the seller is a bona fide automobile repair shop, or an affidavit that attests the detached catalytic converter was acquired lawfully; and
- (2) The make, model, year, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the detached catalytic converter originated.

Currently, dealers in junk, scrap metal, or other secondhand property must keep records of certain transactions for a minimum of 36 months. This bill increases the length of time to four years. The DOR must provide a standardized form for recording the transactions, and must submit said forms at least monthly to DOR.

The bill adds that a person commits the offense of stealing, if for the purpose of depriving the owner of a lawful interest therein, he or she receives, retains, or disposes of a catalytic converter and knows it has been stolen, believes it has been stolen, or reasonably should have suspected that such property was stolen.

The bill establishes the offense of unlawful possession of a detached catalytic converter. This offense is a class E felony. A person commits the offense of unlawful possession of a detached catalytic converter if the person possesses a catalytic converter with the intent to sell unless:

- (1) The detached catalytic converter is possessed in the course of a legitimate business purpose;
- (2) The detached catalytic converter is a component or constituent part of an item or equipment owned by the individual; or
- (3) The possession of the detached catalytic converter is for some other lawful purpose.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE DEFINITION (Section 304.022)

This bill adds vehicles operated by county or municipal park rangers to the definition of "emergency vehicle" applicable to yielding the right-of-way and the display of emergency lights.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES (Section 304.822)

Currently, the State preempts the field of regulating the use of electronic communication devices by the operators of motor vehicles.

This bill changes the language of the preemption so that local laws, ordinances, or regulations are allowed as long as they do not conflict with the State's law on the subject.

FIREFIGHTERS' PROCEDURAL BILL OF RIGHTS (Sections 320.500, 320.502, 320.504, 320.506, 320.508, 320.510, 320.512, 320.514, 320.516, 320.518, 320.520, 320.522, 320.524, 320.526, and 320.528)

This bill establishes the "Firefighters' Procedural Bill of Rights Act".

The bill defines a "firefighter" as any Missouri resident who is employed full-time or part-time by a public agency in Missouri as a firefighter, or first responder, or ancillary service personnel, which also includes emergency medical service workers, dispatchers, paramedics, emergency maintenance technicians, and emergency medical technicians (EMT), but does not include an employee who has not successfully completed his or her probationary period established by an employer as a condition of employment.

The bill defines "interrogation" as any formal interview, inquiry, or questioning of any firefighter regarding misconduct or violation of policy. The bill also defines terms such as "representative" and "social media account", among other terms detailed in the bill.

Provisions in this bill include, but are not limited to, that it:

- (1) Specifies that, except when on duty or in uniform, no firefighter will be prohibited from engaging, or be coerced or required to engage, in political activity;
- (2) Specifies that firefighters will not be prohibited from seeking election to the governing board of a school district or any local agency where the firefighter is not currently employed;
- (3) Creates several provisions for how interrogations must be conducted when any firefighter is under investigation by his or her commanding officer or any other member designated by the employing department or licensing or certifying agency, each of which is specified in the bill, including the requirement that prior to an interview session, the investigator must advise the firefighter of the rules set out in certain court cases;
- (4) Creates provisions for the reopening of an investigation against a firefighter, provided that the specified conditions are met; and
- (5) Prohibits anyone from searching any firefighter's locker or other assigned storage space owned or leased by the employer, except in the firefighter's presence and with his or her consent, or unless a valid search warrant has been obtained, or unless he or she have been notified that a search will be conducted.

The bill also requires that all personally identifying information about the firefighter's family will be held confidentially and protected from release to the public. In addition, the employing agency will not, either directly or indirectly, cause the disclosure of a firefighter's username, password, or any other

information that would provide access to personal social media accounts.

It is unlawful for any employing department or licensing or certifying agency to deny or refuse to any firefighter the rights and protections in these provisions. The circuit court of the county of proper venue possesses initial jurisdiction over any proceeding brought by any firefighter against any employing department or licensing or certifying agency for violations of the these provisions. If the court finds a violation has occurred, it must render appropriate extraordinary or injunctive relief to remedy the violation and prevent future occurrences of a similar nature. If the court finds that a bad faith or frivolous action or filing has been brought for an improper purpose, the court can order sanctions against the filing party, their attorney, or both.

In addition to the extraordinary relief afforded by the provisions of this bill, upon a court's finding that a fire department, its employees, agents, or assigns have maliciously violated any provisions mentioned within the bill with the intent to injure the firefighter, the fire department will be, for each violation, liable for a civil penalty up to \$25,000, to be awarded to the firefighter whose right or protection was denied, and for reasonable attorney's fees as can be determined by the court. If there is sufficient evidence that actual damages occurred against the firefighter in question, the department will also be liable for the amount of the actual damages.

A fire department will not be required to indemnify a contractor for the contractor's liability under this provision if there is, within the contract between the department and the contractor, a hold harmless or similar provision protecting the fire department from liability for actions of the contractor.

Nothing in this bill will be construed, in any way, to limit the ability of any employment department, licensing or certifying agency, or any firefighter to fulfill mutual aid agreements with other jurisdictions or agencies, and the provisions of this bill must not be construed in any way to limit any kind of jurisdictional or interagency cooperation under any circumstances where that activity is deemed necessary or desirable by those jurisdictions or agencies so involved.

All rights and protections depicted in the provisions of this bill will only apply to firefighters in events and circumstances in which they are performing their official duties.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SURPLUS (Section 321.295)

This bill provides that the board of directors of a fire protection district can distribute surplus or unneeded property, in the same manner as Federal surplus property is distributed, to fire protection districts, fire departments, certain nonprofits, and eligible donees as defined in connection with the Federal surplus property program. The board can also sell surplus property to the general public by auction, sealed bid.

The board may not donate or sell surplus emergency vehicles or unneeded supplies or property to board members, officers, or employees of the fire protection district or their relatives within the fourth degree, or to an entity of which a board member, officer, or employee is a board member or officer, unless sold on an online auction platform approved by the Office of Administration

JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS (Sections, 589.700 and 595.045).

This bill provides that a person who pled guilty to or was found guilty of certain sexual offenses, as specified in the bill, will be required to pay \$10,000 in restitution, per identified victim, or \$2,500 in restitution if the person pled guilty to or was found guilty of patronizing prostitution, and \$2,500 for each county in which the offense or offenses occurred, payable to the State to be deposited into the newly established "Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Fund". Upon receipt of money from the Fund, a county must allocate disbursement of the funds according to the requirements in the bill.

This bill establishes the "Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Fund". The moneys in the fund will be distributed to the county where the human trafficking offense or offenses occurred. The county will allocate \$10,000, or \$2,500 if the offense for which the restitution was assessed was patronizing prostitution, toward local rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and \$2,500 toward local education programs for convicted human trafficking offenders and to increase the number of law enforcement officers to enforce human trafficking laws.

Currently, the court collects \$46.00 to be paid to the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund for a guilty plea, or finding of guilt, for a class C or D felony. This bill adds a class E felony to this provision.

OFFENSE OF INTERFERENCE WITH A FIRST RESPONDER (Section 574.207)

This bill creates the offense of interference with a first responder, which must be a class A misdemeanor. A person commits the offense when a person has received a verbal warning not to approach from a first responder who is engaged in the lawful

performance of a legal duty and the person knowingly and willfully violates the verbal warning and approaches within 25 feet with the intent to:

- (1) Impede or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform his or her legal duty;
- (2) Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or
- (3) Engage in conduct directed at a first responder that intentionally causes emotional distress and serves no legitimate purpose.

OFFENSES INVOLVING DRUG TRAFFICKING (Sections 579.065 and 579.068)

This bill amends the offenses of drug trafficking in the first degree and drug trafficking in the second degree.

Currently, trafficking drugs in the first degree is a class B felony if the person knowingly distributes, delivers, manufactures, or produces, or attempts to distribute, deliver, manufacture, or produce more than 10 milligrams of fentanyl. It is a class A felony if the amount is 20 milligrams or more.

Trafficking drugs in the second degree is a class C felony if the person knowingly possesses or has under his or her control, purchases or attempts to purchase, or brings into this State more than 10 milligrams of fentanyl, and is a class B felony if the amount is 20 milligrams or more.

This bill amends the quantities of fentanyl for the offense of trafficking of drugs, in the first and second degree, as follows:

- (1) Drug trafficking in the first degree is a class B felony for more than three but less than 14 milligrams of fentanyl;
- (2) Drug trafficking in the first degree is a class A felony for more than 14 milligrams of fentanyl;
- (3) Drug trafficking in the second degree is a class C felony for more than three but less than 14 milligrams of fentanyl;
- (4) Drug trafficking in the second degree is a class B felony for more than 14 milligrams of fentanyl.

Under the offense of trafficking drugs in the first degree, trafficking any amount of carfentanil up to .05 milligrams is a class B felony, and trafficking more than .05 milligrams is a class A felony. Under the offense of trafficking drugs in the second degree, trafficking any amount of carfentanil up to .05 milligrams is a class C felony, and trafficking more than .05 milligrams is a class B felony.

CANINE TRAINING FOR PEACE OFFICERS (Section 590.040)

This bill requires the basic training of every peace officer to include at least four hours of training on officer-canine encounters and canine behaviors. The bill specifies what the training must include.

DETENTION FOR EVALUATION AND TREATMENT (Section 632.305)

Currently, an application for detention for evaluation and treatment at a mental health facility can be executed by any adult person, who is not required to be an attorney or represented by an attorney, without a notarization requirement.

This bill repeals the provision that notarization is not required and specifies that no notarization will be required for any application, or for any affidavits, declarations, or other supporting documents, that were completed or executed by certain peace officers, licensed physicians, mental health professionals, registered professional nurses, or employees acting on behalf of a hospital, as such persons are described in the bill.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill allows the display of emergency lights for park rangers in municipalities. This was Truly Agreed and Finally Passed in 2022, but the bill was vetoed for other, unrelated reasons. It gives these local park rangers extra tools in their toolbox and allows them to provide mutual aid. They are having instances in certain counties where the park rangers are allowed to stop people in certain ways, but they are otherwise limited.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Brown; Missouri Park and Recreation Association; and St. Louis County.

OPPONENTS: 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.