

HB 1786 -- CERTAIN HIGHWAY PATROL PURCHASES

SPONSOR: Voss

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 12 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, there is a fund called the "Highway Patrol's Motor Vehicle, Aircraft, and Watercraft Revolving Fund" that is used for the purchase of motor vehicles, aircrafts, and watercraft for the highway patrol. Prior to obligating funds for the purchase of an individual unit that costs in excess of \$100,000, the highway patrol must receive a specific appropriation from the General Assembly for that particular purchase. This bill increases the purchase price to be in excess of \$500,000.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the previous statutory limit was set over a decade ago. Highway patrol vehicles are more expensive now and, since absorbing the Water Patrol, the agency has begun purchasing watercraft, which cost between \$200,000 to \$300,000 due to fabrication, equipment, and technology. Having to go through the General Assembly's budget process every time a vehicle is needed is overly restrictive and unnecessary, especially considering larger budgetary decisions, such as hiring additional employees, are not restricted in this manner.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Voss and Alexander Vivas, Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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.