

HCS HBs 3083 & 2940 -- LEAVES OF ABSENCE FOR MILITARY SERVICE

SPONSOR: Allen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Veterans and Armed Forces by a vote of 21 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 3083 & 2940.

Currently, all officers and employees of this state, or of any department or agency thereof, or of any county, municipality, school district, or other political subdivision, and all other public employees of this state who are or may become members of the National Guard or of any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, are entitled to leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of time, pay, regular leave, impairment of efficiency rating, or of any other rights or benefits, to which otherwise entitled, for all periods of military services during which they are engaged in the performance of duty or training in the service of this state at the call of the Governor and as ordered by the Adjutant General without regard to length of time, and for all periods of military services during which they are engaged in the performance of duty in the service of the United States under competent orders for a period not to exceed a total of 120 hours in any federal fiscal year. This bill increases the amount of time from 120 hours to 39 working days.

This bill also prevents the loss of position, seniority, accumulated leave, impairment of performance appraisal, pay status, work schedule including shift, working days and days off assigned to volunteer firefighters who are also on leave for military duties.

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 this would help our firefighters who works long shifts over weekends. The increased demand placed on service members requires them to train for the mission the United States requires of them. They need to know they will have a job when they return home and that they won't be discriminated against for their service.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Allen; Stephen Davis, Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters ; and Missouri National Guard Association.

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.