

HCS HB 3154 -- CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

SPONSOR: Cook

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 13 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 11 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 3154.

The bill specifies that the Missouri Gaming Commission may require an applicant seeking a fantasy sports contest operator's license to submit fingerprints to the State Highway Patrol for a criminal background check. The State Highway Patrol will notify the Division of any criminal history or lack of criminal history. The fingerprints will also be forwarded to the FBI (Section 313.912).

This bill specifies that the Commission may require an applicant seeking a retail sports wagering license or a mobile sports wagering license to submit fingerprints to the State Highway Patrol for a criminal background check. The State Highway Patrol will notify the Division of any criminal history or lack of criminal history. The fingerprints will also be forwarded to the FBI (Section 313.1000).

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1800 (2024).

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 bill works with the Missouri Gaming Commission to ensure fingerprints are gathered related to sports wagering and fantasy sports. The individuals involved should go through the proper criminal background checks and not be involved in criminal activity. There are some new items that need to be included in the previous fingerprint bill. Similar industries often find individuals with their background checks that should not be hired or approved, but sports wagering and fantasy sports don't currently fall within the statutes authorizing background checks for casinos.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Cook; Michael Leara, Missouri Gaming Commission; and Arnie Dienoff.

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.