

HB 68 -- MISUSE OF EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE

SPONSOR: Scharnhorst

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Small Business by a vote of 16 to 0.

This bill prohibits a political subdivision from imposing a fine or penalty on the owner of a pay telephone or on the owner of any property upon which a pay telephone is located for calls to an emergency telephone service from the pay telephone.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROponents: Supporters say that the bill allows pay phones to continue to exist in Missouri without the threat of fines being imposed for the misuse of a pay phone by someone making a prank call to 911. These calls are free for 30 minutes to assist in an emergency. The number of pay phones has drastically declined in the past several years as cell phone usage has increased, but pay phones are still used in certain areas of the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Scharnhorst; and Lin Harvey, Midwest Independent Coin Payphone Association.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.