

HCS HB 1826 -- VIDEOCONFERENCING OF OFFENDERS

SPONSOR: Black (Fitzwater)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Corrections by a vote of 9 to 1.

This substitute allows the Board of Probation and Parole within the Department of Corrections, or a hearing panel of the board, to conduct a hearing with an offender by means of a videoconference at its discretion. Victims having a right to attend parole hearings may testify at the site where the board is conducting the videoconference or at the institution where the offender is located. The use of videoconferencing will not be utilized if the offender, victim, or victim's family object to it.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide a tremendous cost savings to the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fitzwater; and Department of Corrections.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.