

HB 2355 -- JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill creates within the office of State Courts Administrator the Missouri State Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, which must provide consultation and recommendations regarding ongoing best practices within the juvenile court system and juvenile officer standards. The bill specifies the required membership of the board.

Board members must serve for a term of at least four years and may be reappointed to the board by their entities for consecutive terms. All vacancies on the board must be filled for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner in which the vacant membership was originally filled. Members of the board must serve without compensation and the board must elect officers from the membership consisting of a chairperson and secretary.

The board is required to meet a minimum of four times per calendar year and must provide to the Office of State Courts Administrator, the Office of Child Advocate, and the Joint Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect a written annual report of recommendations and activities.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Department of Justice has found that the way juvenile officers are employed in the state of Missouri creates a conflict of interest. This bill establishes a board to provide recommendations regarding best practices.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant; Beverly Newman; Missouri Kids First; Janet Warner; Office Of The Child Advocate; Jake Skouby, Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; and Missouri Juvenile Justice Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.