

HCS SCS SB 1171 -- HOMELAND SECURITY

SPONSOR: Griesheimer (Jackson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs by a vote of 17 to 0.

This substitute codifies the Office of Homeland Security and the Missouri Security Council which were created by an executive order of the Governor. The office and the council will terminate 90 days following the dissolution of the federal Department of Homeland Security.

The name of the Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism, and Homeland Security is changed to the Joint Committee on Homeland Security and requires the committee to regularly meet on an annual basis. Currently, the committee conducts meetings quarterly.

The substitute establishes a Joint Committee on Communications Interoperability and Efficiency consisting of five members from the House of Representatives and five members from the Senate. The committee is required to analyze and make recommendations in the following areas:

- (1) The need and feasibility of a state commission on communications interoperability and efficiency and the establishment of the duties and membership of the commission;
- (2) How the commission may serve as an oversight body with the power of allocating state and federal communications funds to state entities; and
- (3) The feasibility of a single state telecommunications network plan for all public governmental bodies within the state.

One or more study groups consisting of interested parties must be established by the committee to assist in their analyses and recommendations. The committee will conduct meetings at least quarterly and may use legislative personnel to assist in the performance of its duties. Members of the committee will serve without compensation.

The initial report of the committee's activities will be submitted to the General Assembly no later than February 1, 2005; subsequent reports will be submitted January 15 of each year. The report will contain recommendations for legislative action and any administrative or personnel changes in the internal management or organization of state government. Copies of the report will be sent to the appropriate directors of the state

departments and agencies.

The substitute also creates the Emergency Management, Preparedness, and Assistance Trust Fund. Moneys appropriated from the trust fund will be allocated to the State Emergency Management Agency to be utilized for the implementation and administration of state and local emergency management programs, state relief assistance for non-federally declared emergencies, and programs for disaster education.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill codifies certain programs and offices relating to homeland security and provides continuity in current homeland security efforts in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Senators Griesheimer and Childers; and Representative Shoemaker (8).

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Missouri Research and Education Network (MOREnet) could be affected by the passage of the bill.

Others testifying on the bill was Missouri School Librarians Association.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst