

HCS HB 163, 213 & 216 -- VETERANS' MEDALLION PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Jackson (Smith, 14)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, any World War II veteran who wants to receive a medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation must have been a Missouri resident before August 28, 2000, and must have made application for the medals prior to July 1, 2004. Veterans of the Korean War who want to receive the medallion, medal, and certificate of appreciation must have been Missouri residents before August 28, 2003, and must have made application for the medals prior to January 1, 2005.

This substitute allows veterans of World War II or the Korean War to receive the medals of appreciation as long as they are a resident of Missouri, had been a resident at the time of entering or being discharged from the military, or had been a resident at the time of death. The application deadlines for both medical programs are removed.

In both programs, the substitute requires that the medallions, medals, and certificates be awarded until the supply is exhausted. When there are fewer than 100 medallions, medals, and certificates for either program, the Adjutant General must notify the General Assembly.

The substitute has an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters of the bills say that the Adjutant General has medals and medallions in his possession, but because the programs expired on December 31, 2004, he does not have the authority to distribute the remaining medals to veterans who applied after the deadline. The bills give him the authority to process applications received in 2005 and to distribute medals to World War II and Korean War veterans. The bills will not cost the state any additional money and the medals are an important way to honor our veterans.

Testifying for HB 163 were Representative Smith (14); Marine Corps League; Missouri Veterans Commission; Missouri National Guard Association; Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations. Testifying for HB 213 were Representative Deeken; Marine Corps League; Missouri Veterans Commission; Missouri National Guard Association; Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations. Testifying for HB 216 were Representative Pollock; Marine Corps League; Missouri Veterans

Commission; Missouri Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst