

HCS HB 272 -- CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARDS

SPONSOR: Lipke (Pratt)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute establishes requirements for serving on a civilian review board. Every member is required to be at least 18 years old, a registered voter residing in the city or county, and not have been convicted of a felony, a class A misdemeanor, or a class B misdemeanor.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that current law does not require any qualifications for a person to serve on a civilian review board. The people serving in these positions have enormous responsibility and should have at least minimum qualifications.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pratt; Missouri State Fraternal Order of Police; Kansas City Police Officers Association; St. Louis Police Officers Association; and Missouri Police Chiefs' Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it requires higher standards than those required to become a police officer or a member of the police board of commissioners. There are people working as police officers in this state who have been convicted of a felony. If you can be a police officer, you should be able to volunteer on the board that looks into allegations of police misconduct.

Testifying against the bill were Representative El-Amin; and Coalition Against Police Crime and Repression.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst