

HCS HB 489 -- FAILURE TO YIELD TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Lipke (Meadows)

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

This substitute increases the penalty for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle from a class C to a class B misdemeanor.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the law that requires drivers to yield to emergency vehicles is ignored. It's not a problem for police officers, because people know they will get a ticket if they ignore a cop; however, ambulances are constantly getting stuck behind people who refuse to get out of the way. With many medical emergencies, a delay of a couple minutes can be the difference between life and death. With a tougher penalty, more people will hopefully be aware and comply with the law.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Meadows; and Missouri Police Chiefs' Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst