

HCS HB 1053 -- ARREST RECORDS

SPONSOR: Pratt (Jolly)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, access to official court records for persons arrested and charged, but the case is subsequently nolle prossed, dismissed, or the accused is found not guilty or imposition of sentence is suspended, is limited to law enforcement agencies, child care agencies, residential care facilities, and skilled nursing facilities. This substitute authorizes access to official court records to victims of offenses against the family found in Chapters 566 and 568, RSMo. The official records will be released only for the purpose of using the records in the victim's own judicial proceeding.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow victims to inspect the defendant's court record for the purpose of using it for their own civil court proceeding. Releasing the court records will also allow the victim to avoid future threats from the defendant.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jolly; Aubrey Key; and Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alex Curchin, Legislative Analyst