

HCS SCS SB 666 -- FIRE PROTECTION

SPONSOR: Engler (Bruns)

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

This substitute specifies that an employer cannot terminate an employee for joining a fire department or fire protection district or for being absent or late from work while performing duties as a volunteer firefighter or charge against the employee's regular pay for any time the employee loses while performing duties as a volunteer firefighter. The employer can request the employee to provide him or her with a written statement from the supervisor of the volunteer fire department stating that the employee responded to an emergency and the time and date of the emergency. The employee must make reasonable efforts to notify his or her employer if he or she will be late or absent from work in order to respond to an emergency. An employee who is terminated in violation of the provisions of the substitute will have a civil cause of action against his or her former employer.

All fire protection districts, volunteer fire protection associations, and fire departments must complete and file a fire department registration with the State Fire Marshal by March 1, 2007, and annually thereafter.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will correct problems that employees who serve as volunteer firefighters are facing.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Engler.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst