

HCS HB 338 -- MINIMUM COMPENSATION FOR CORRECTIONS EMPLOYEES

SPONSOR: Kelly (Tilley)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 7 to 0.

This substitute authorizes minimum amounts of compensation for certain corrections employees.

The substitute becomes effective July 1, 2008.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2008, \$4,766,261 to Unknown in FY 2009, and \$8,587,515 to Unknown in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Missouri corrections officers are the lowest paid in the country. The department experiences a high rate of turnover, especially in newer employees. The state spends an exorbitant amount of money on training, and many newer corrections officers leave the department after they receive training to seek more gainful employment. In order to maintain a qualified staff, the state needs to provide adequate compensation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Tilley; Missouri Corrections Officers Association; and Sheila Lawson.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.