

HCS HB 945 -- CRIMES AGAINST CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICIALS,  
CORRECTIONS PERSONNEL, AND EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL

SPONSOR: Kelly (Parson)

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

This substitute creates the crime of murder of a criminal justice official in the first degree when a person knowingly causes the death of a criminal justice official while the official was performing lawful duties or when the person knowingly causes the death of the criminal justice official because of his or her status as a criminal justice official. Any person who commits this crime will be guilty of a felony punishable by death unless other mitigating factors are present.

The crime of assault of a law enforcement officer, emergency personnel, or probation or parole officer in the first degree is expanded to include corrections officers, and the definition of "dangerous felony" is revised to include the crime of assault of emergency or corrections personnel in the first degree.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help deter acts of violence against our law enforcement officers, corrections personnel, and emergency services personnel if people know the penalty will be death.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Parson; State Highway Patrol; Department of Corrections; Missouri State Troopers Association; and Gary Gross, Missouri Corrections Officers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.