

HCS HB 177 -- COURT RECORDS FOR SEXUAL OFFENSES

SPONSOR: Stevenson (Cox)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute gives the judge in a domestic assault case the discretion to publicly disclose identifying information regarding the defendant which could be used to identify or locate the victim. The victim may provide a statement regarding whether or not he or she wants the information to remain closed. The judge must consider the statement of the victim and the welfare and safety of the victim in determining whether to disclose the information.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will close a loophole in the law that allows offenders to have identifying information closed because the information could be used to identify the victim.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cox; and Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.