

HCS SCS SB 47 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

SPONSOR: Scott (Bruns)

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

This substitute allows any person who has completed a high school program of education under Chapter 167, RSMo, obtained a General Educational Development (GED) certificate; or obtained advanced education and experience as approved by the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol or Commissioner of the State Water Patrol to become a member of either patrol or its radio personnel. Currently, members must have graduated from an accredited four-year high school.

Currently, all sheriffs, except the sheriff of St. Louis County, must hold a valid peace officer license except during the first 12 months of the first term of office of any sheriff who is eligible and intends to become licensed as a peace officer. The substitute removes the 12-month grace period exception.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill allows individuals who have a high school diploma from any high school recognized by state statute to apply for employment with the State Highway Patrol.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Scott; and State Highway Patrol.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.