

HCS HBs 256, 33 & 305 -- Open Meetings and Records Law

SPONSOR: Jones (50)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 15 to 0.

This substitute extends from December 31, 2012, to December 31, 2016, the expiration date of the provision regarding the exemption from the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law, of the disclosure of the operational guidelines and policies by any public agency responsible for law enforcement, public safety, first response, or public health for use in responding or preventing any critical incident that is terrorist in nature and has the potential to endanger individual or public safety or health and the expiration date of the provision regarding the exemption from the law for existing or proposed security systems and structural plans of real property owned or leased by a public governmental body and information that is voluntarily submitted by a nonpublic entity owning or operating an infrastructure to any public governmental body for use by that body to devise plans for the protection of that infrastructure, the public disclosure of which would threaten public safety.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the extension of the expiration dates on these exemptions to the Sunshine Law is needed to once again protect sensitive information that could potentially jeopardize the security of particular locations.

Testifying for the bills were Representatives Jones (50), Guernsey, and Walker; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; Department of Transportation; Vernon County Ambulance District; City of Nevada; Saint Louis County Municipal League; Missouri Municipal League; City Utilities of Springfield, MO; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; David Parrish, Sheriff of Lewis County; Council on Public Higher Education in Missouri; Bill Gamble, City of Kansas City; Mike Lodewegen, School Administrators Coalition; Missouri School Boards Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City; Paul Fennewald, Missouri Center for Education Safety; Missouri Police Chiefs Association; Department of Public Safety; and American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.