

HCS HB 1377 -- PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER EDUCATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Walker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill adds emergency medical technicians and uniformed employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal to the definition of "public safety officer" for purposes of eligibility for the Survivor's and Disabled Employee's Educational Grant Program.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that emergency medical technicians should have been covered by the original bill. Since 1973 25 EMTs have been killed in the line of duty.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walker; Rich Dandridge, President of the Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association; Jason White, Missouri EMS Funeral Response Team and Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue Committee; and Missouri Ambulance Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.