

HB 1737 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 6 to 1.

This bill changes the laws regarding the authority of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules to review law or policy of state agencies by revising the definition of "rule" to not exclude statements concerning the execution of inmates. The Department of Corrections is authorized to establish rules to administer these provisions.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there has been a lot of controversy surrounding how the state effectuates the death penalty, and the execution process is shrouded in secrecy. We are now one of 14 states that use pentobarbital in executions. The bill requires rules and policies regarding executions to go through the rule making process through the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. There is a comment period and the committee can decide if they want to intervene or take any action on the bills that have been proposed. Current law only allows the use of a lethal injection or the gas chamber.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burlison; Dan Viets; and Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.