

HCS HB 2116 -- PUBLIC SAFETY

SPONSOR: Torpey

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill changes the laws regarding public safety. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Authorizes the City of Liberty and North Kansas City to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to .5% solely for the purpose of improving the public safety of the city, including expenditures on equipment, salaries and benefits, and facilities for police, fire, and emergency medical providers;

(2) Changes the laws regarding eligibility for compensation for emergency personnel under the Line of Duty Compensation Act. The bill revises the definition of "killed in the line of duty" to when death is caused by an accident or violence of another; the individual is in the active performance of his or her duties in his or her respective profession and there is a relationship between the accident or commission of the act of violence and the performance of the duty, even if the individual is off duty, on a meal or other break, or traveling to or from employment; death is the natural and probable consequence of the injury; and the death occurs within 300 weeks from the date the injury was received;

(3) Specifies that the definition of "lucrative office or employment" in the provisions regarding fire protection district directors do not include part-time employment as defined as less than 35 hours per week and removes stipends or per diems from the list of what he or she receives; and

(4) Sets the candidate filing fee for a fire protection district board seat at the amount equal to the filing fee for a candidate for county office, which currently is \$50. Currently, the required fee is \$10 in one section of the fire protections district law and an amount equal to the filing fee for a candidate for state representative, which currently is \$50, in another section. The bill resolves this inconsistency.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill matches Missouri to federal workers compensation laws.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Torpey; Missouri Council of Firefighters; Missouri Ambulance Association; and Vernon County Ambulance District.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.