

HCS HB 2116 -- PUBLIC SAFETY (Torpey)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety

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. These provisions will expire June 19, 2025;

(3) Removes stipends or per diems from the list of what a fire protection district director does not receive from the definition of "lucrative office or employment";

(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 protection's 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;

(5) Specifies that a person commits the crime of false impersonation if he or she falsely represents himself or herself to be a public servant by displaying a badge or other credential with the purpose of inducing the other to submit to her or her pretended authority;

(6) Includes a less lethal weapon, to include blunt impact, chemical or conducted energy device used in the performance of his or her official duties. Currently, a person commits the crime of disarming a peace officer or correctional officer if he or she

removes a firearm or other deadly weapon from an officer acting within the scope of his or her official duties;

(7) Moves the authority to regulate corporate security advisors from the Board of Police Commissioners to the Department of Public Safety and anyone failing to obtain the proper licensure from the department is guilty of a misdemeanor; and

(8) Increases the amount of compensation paid for death, personal injury, or loss of earnings or support to crime victims from \$200 to \$400 per week.