HCS for SB 141 -- CRIME

SPONSOR: Parson (Austin)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill specifies that an individual who, in good faith, seeks medical assistance for someone who is experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other medical emergency, including seeking assistance for himself or herself in these instances, or if the individual is the subject of a good faith request must not be arrested, charged, prosecuted, convicted, or have his or her property subject to civil forfeiture or otherwise be penalized for certain specified offenses if the evidence for the arrest, charge, prosecution conviction, seizure, or penalty was gained as a result of seeking medical assistance.

The bill allows the fund to pay compensation for service providers who are board certified psychiatric-mental health clinical nurse specialists or nurse practitioners licensed under Chapter 335, RSMo, or licensed in the state in which the service is provided to those who may receive compensation from the fund for psychiatric treatment or other counseling services.

Currently, the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund can pay an eligible victim up to $200 per week for the loss of employment and for injury or death. This bill raises that amount to up to $400 per week.

The bill allows the Department of Public Safety to negotiate directly with medical and other service providers on behalf of the victim with respect to the cost of the services provided.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will provide additional, needed support to victims of crime. Moneys in the fund to provide the support are sufficient.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Parson; Missouri Catholic Conference; Jessica Meyers, Missouri Victim Assistance Network; and Jeff Stark, Mid-Missouri Fellowship For Reconciliation.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.