

HB 1708 -- BLANKET LIABILITY BOND

SPONSOR: Green

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Administration, after consultation with the State Courts Administrator, to procure a blanket bond or crime insurance policy as he or she deems necessary to protect the state against loss from the acts or omissions of any state-compensated person within the judiciary. Currently, the commissioner must procure surety bonds as required by statute and that he or she deems necessary after consultation with the administrator.

The commissioner may require a bond and fix the amount of the bond of any officer, employee, or agent of the state who has responsibility for or access to any money or property belonging to the state or in which the state may have an interest and who is not otherwise required by law to give a bond.

In lieu of individual bonds, the commissioner may elect to procure one or more blanket bonds or suitable crime insurance policies endorsed to include faithful performance or elect to assume the risk for any or all officers and employees of the state. Any bond or policy procured must contain the coverages, terms, conditions, coverage limits, and deductibles as the commissioner deems adequate to protect the interests of the state but not less than the aggregate coverage limits otherwise required by law. The procurement must constitute compliance with any law requiring any officer or employee of the state to be bonded. The costs of any blanket bond, crime insurance policy, or self-assumption program must be paid from the State Legal Expense Fund.

This bill is the same as HB 158 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill just puts statutes in line with current practices.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Green.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say current statutes reference surety bonds while current practice utilizes blanket bonds, so the bill just puts statutes in line with practices.

Testifying on the bill was JaCinda Thudium, Office of

Administration/Risk Management.