

HCS HB 1942 -- CAMPUS PROTECTION OFFICERS

SPONSOR: Dohrman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill authorizes colleges and universities to designate faculty or staff members as campus protection officers. Any faculty or staff member seeking designation as a campus protection officer must submit a certificate of completion from a campus protection officer training program approved by the Department of Public Safety. A campus protection officer will be authorized to carry concealed firearms on campus after submitting proof that he or she has a valid concealed carry endorsement or permit.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill gives colleges the option, based on each institution's local situation, to expand safety measures on campus. Campus protection officers will help improve response time to violent emergencies on campus.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dohrman; Paul Wagner, Council on Public Higher Education; and the Missouri Community College Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.