

HCS HB 303 -- PRISON CANTEEN FUNDS

SPONSOR: Hansen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill specifies that the Chief Administrative Officer of any correctional center may, with the approval of the Director of the Department of Corrections, establish and operate a canteen or commissary for the use and benefit of the offenders. The bill specifies provisions that shall apply for all money collected and expended for a canteen or commissary before August 28, 2019.

The bill establishes in the State Treasury the "Inmate Canteen Fund," and it specifies terms and conditions for the fund, including that the State Treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund and that money in the fund must be used to collect all revenue and pay operating expenses of the inmate canteens. On August 28, 2019, the unexpended balance in any inmate canteen fund shall be transferred from the Canteen Fund established prior to August 28, 2019, to the Canteen Fund established after August 28, 2019, and all canteen funds established prior to August 28, 2019, will be abolished.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this is for the benefit of offenders and money received from commissary purchases goes toward the purchase of supplies for the centers. This could be used for reentry services and will hopefully reduce recidivism rates. Additionally, this would allow the interest revenue of the fund to remain within the fund and not go to the General Revenue Fund. There would have to be an appropriations request to spend funds on reentry services.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hansen and the Missouri Department of Corrections.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.