

HB 60 -- STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SPONSOR: Schnelting

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

Beginning December 31, 2021, this bill creates a "Department of Defense" and transfers the powers, duties, and functions vested in the Office of Adjutant General, the state militia, and the Office of the State Judge Advocate from the Department of Public Safety, via Type I transfer.

This bill has an effective date contingent upon the passage and approval by the voters of an amendment to the Constitution creating a Department of Defense.

This bill is the same as HB 2209 (2020).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that 48 other states have a similar "Department of Defense" and that this bill will provide a proper chain of command without a "middle man". The Adjunct General will directly answer to the Governor and then may command the proper support staff. This bill will allow leadership to speed up critical decision making and if military construction projects arise provide opportunities to take advantage of those without going through a variety of other departments.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schnelting and the Missouri National Guard Association.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.