

HCS SCS SB 1365 -- VETERANS' EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Yeckel (Jackson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs by a vote of 16 to 0.

Subject to appropriations, the substitute requires the General Assembly to encourage the development of veterans' outreach and education programs which promote the historical significance of veterans' military service. The programs must be approved by the Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans Commission and will be conducted in public schools, veteran cemeteries, veteran homes, and other institutions. This provision of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

The substitute also creates the Veterans' Historical Education Trust Fund which will be administered by the Missouri Veterans Commission and used for the purpose of contributing to the preservation of freedom and financing veterans' outreach and educational programs.

The Director of the Department of Revenue is required to deposit all amounts received or designated to the fund which include grants, gifts, appropriations, and federal moneys. Funds appropriated by the General Assembly can only be used for conducting veterans' outreach and educational activities. Unexpended balances remaining in the fund will not revert to the General Revenue Fund.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 in FY 2005, an income of \$0 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2006, and an income of \$0 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2007. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that each year, as more Missouri veterans die, there is a loss of valuable historical, social, and military information from the life stories of the veterans. It is important to record and preserve these stories for historical and research purposes. The Library of Congress has a similar program, and it is important to establish a program in Missouri which can be used for educational and outreach purposes in local communities and in public schools.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Yeckel.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst