

HCS HB 891 -- TAX CREDITS FOR HIRING DISABLED WORKERS

SPONSOR: Richard (Kratky)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute authorizes a tax credit for a business employing a disabled worker against a company's corporate income tax; corporate franchise tax; financial institutions tax; or bridge, express, and public utility company tax. Individuals are excluded from this tax credit. The amount of the credit is based on the disabled employee's average hours worked per week in a taxable year. If the average is at least 10 hours, the credit will be \$1,000 per disabled employee; \$1,500 if the average is at least 20 hours; and \$3,000 if the average is at least 40 hours. The credit cannot be refunded, carried over, or transferred.

The provisions of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2008, More than \$100,000 in FY 2009, and More than \$100,000 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that disabled individuals face many barriers when trying to enter the workforce. The bill will provide an incentive for businesses to hire disabled individuals and encourage potential employers to take a second look at hiring a disabled worker. When people have a job, they have more spending power and a better quality of life. They will pay more sales tax because they'll be able to buy more. This tax credit also compliments the Ticket to Work Program.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Kratky; Paraquad; MERS/Missouri Goodwill Industries; Craig Henning, Disability Resource Association; Southwest Center for Independent Living; Whole Person, Incorporated; and Theresa Rohlfing.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.