

HCS SCS SB 369 & SB 550 -- STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

SPONSOR: Scott (Moore)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute allows the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol to direct members and other employees of the patrol to carry out any public safety duty or service authorized or appropriated by the General Assembly. The Governor nor the superintendent can order any member of the patrol to perform any duty or service not authorized under state statute. The patrol is authorized to conduct criminal background checks on gubernatorial appointees who are subject to Senate confirmation. Information received by the patrol must be kept confidential and cannot be disclosed to anyone other than the Governor and/or members of the Governor's staff as necessary to determine the appointee's qualifications.

The substitute also specifies that the patrol will be divided into troops rather than districts and removes the requirement that the superintendent reside in Jefferson City and be a uniformed member of the patrol. The superintendent is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Missouri Gaming Commission regarding the enforcement of any law or regulation and conducting background investigations related to the laws of this state and the regulation of licensed gaming activities.

Subject to appropriation, any retired employee of the patrol required to perform as a witness in any official court proceeding at least 30 miles from his or her place of residence will receive a per diem of up to \$100 and incurred travel expense and mileage reimbursement.

Currently, any entity requesting criminal history record information not based on a fingerprint search must pay up to \$5 per request. The substitute increases the amount to up to \$9. After January 1, 2010, the superintendent of the patrol may increase this fee up to an additional dollar per year, but cannot exceed \$15. Any entity requesting criminal history record information based on a fingerprint search will be required to pay a fee of up to \$20 per request. If the request is for a concealed carry endorsement, the fee will be \$14.

Any state agency may require the fingerprinting of applicants or employees in specified occupations for the purpose of positive identification and for receiving criminal history record information when determining the applicant's or employee's ability or fitness for a position.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$250,000 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of \$0 to \$36,720 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Senate Bill 369 and Senate Bill 550 make needed changes to the current statutory provisions regarding the State Highway Patrol.

Testifying for SB 369 were Representative Moore for Senator Scott; and State Highway Patrol. Testifying for SB 550 were Representative Moore for Senator Scott; and State Highway Patrol.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.