

HB 257 -- SENTENCING ADVISORY COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Cox

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 9 to 3.

This bill repeals the provisions regarding the Sentencing Advisory Commission.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Income on General Revenue Fund of \$81,223 in FY 2012, \$99,097 in FY 2013, and \$100,760 in FY 2014. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROponents: Supporters say that the commission's work is not used by communities or judges as an aid in sentencing decisions and that the commission promotes bad sentencing policy by misrepresenting statistics.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cox; and Eric Zahn, Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

OPponents: Those who oppose the bill say that the commission provides a vital role in a time when prisons are overcrowded by differentiating between offenders who pose harm to the public and should be incarcerated and those who are nonviolent and appropriate for alternative sentencing.

Testifying against the bill were Honorable Gary Oxenhandler, 13th Judicial Circuit; and Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that there is extensive research on sentencing policy and how it can be improved.

Testifying on the bill was Jeff Milo, University of Missouri.