

HB 301 -- CIVIL COMMITMENT OF SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATORS

SPONSOR: Engler

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Special Standing Committee on Corrections by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, a sexually violent predator who has been civilly committed is allowed to petition the court for conditional release over the objections of the Director of the Department of Mental Health. The petition must be served upon the court that committed the person, the Director of the Department of Mental Health, the head of the facility housing the offender, and the Attorney General. This bill requires the petition to also be served to the prosecutor of the jurisdiction into which the committed person is to be released.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that it is important that the local prosecutor be notified when an offender is to be released in a particular community.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Engler; Department of Mental Health; and Missouri Kids First.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.