

CCS SS SCS HB 307 -- EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS

This bill changes the laws regarding emergency service providers.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF CERTAIN EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDERS (Sections 67.145 and 84.830, RSMo)

The bill specifies that a political subdivision of the state cannot prohibit any first responder from engaging in any political activity while off duty and not in uniform, from being a candidate for elected or appointed public office, or from holding the office unless the political activity or candidacy is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

Currently, an employee or officer of the Kansas City Police Department is prohibited from soliciting any assessment, contribution, or payment for any political purpose from any other employee and from soliciting for any purpose in any building or room occupied for the discharge of the official duties of the department. The bill repeals these provisions and specifies that an employee of the department is not allowed to solicit for any political purpose in any building or room occupied for the discharge of the official duties of the department.

The provision prohibiting an employee of the department from directly or indirectly giving, paying, lending, or contributing any part of his or her salary, compensation, money, or other valuable thing to any person on account of or to be applied to the promotion of any political party, political club, or any other political purpose is repealed.

The provision prohibiting an employee of the department from being a member or an official of any political party committee or being a ward committeeman or committeewoman is repealed.

Currently, an employee of the department cannot solicit any person to vote for or against any candidate for public office or poll precincts or be connected with other similar political work on behalf of any political organization, party, or candidate. The bill prohibits these activities only while the employee is on duty or wearing the official department uniform.

REMOVAL OF NON-ELECTED CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS (Sections 77.046 - 84.430, 85.551, 106.270, 106.273, and 590.080)

The bill specifies that any non-elected chief law enforcement officer of any political subdivision is subject to removal from office or employment by the appointing authority or political subdivision's governing body if the governing body issues a written

notice to the chief whose removal is being sought no fewer than 10 business days prior to the meeting in which the removal will be considered; the chief has been given written notice as to the governing body's intent to remove him or her that includes specified information; the chief is given an opportunity to be heard before the board with any witnesses, evidence, and counsel of his or her choosing; and the board finds, by two-thirds vote, that there is just cause for the removal. Just cause for removal exists when a chief:

- (1) Is unable to perform his or her duties with reasonable competence or safety as a result of a mental condition, including alcohol or substance abuse;
- (2) Has committed any act while engaged in the performance of his or her duties that constitutes a reckless disregard for the safety of the public or another law enforcement officer;
- (3) Has caused a material fact to be misrepresented for any improper or unlawful purpose;
- (4) Acts in a manner for the sole purpose of furthering his or her self-interest or in a manner inconsistent with the interests of the public or the governing body;
- (5) Has been found to have violated any law, statute, or ordinance that constitutes a felony; or
- (6) Has been deemed insubordinate or found in violation of a written established policy unless the claimed insubordination or violation was a violation of any federal or state law or local ordinance.

Upon the satisfaction of the removal procedure, the chief must be immediately removed from his or her office; must be relieved of all duties and responsibilities; cannot be entitled to any further compensation or benefits not already earned, accrued, or agreed upon; and must be issued a written notice of the grounds for the removal within 14 days of the removal.

COLLEGIATE REGULATION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC (Sections 174.700 - 174.712, and 544.157)

The bill allows the governing body of any state college or university to establish regulations to control vehicular traffic on campus. The regulations must be consistent with state law and must be printed and distributed for public use. College or university police officers have the authority to enforce the general motor vehicle laws of Missouri and the regulations adopted by the

governing board on the campus. There must be adequate signs displaying the speed limit on thoroughfares. A violation will have the same effect as a municipal ordinance with penalty provisions and points assessed. State college or university police officers must be certified under Chapter 590 and will have the same powers as other law enforcement officers.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICS (Sections 190.098 and 190.100)

The bill allows a person to be certified by the Department of Health and Senior Services as a community paramedic if he or she is currently certified as a paramedic; has successfully completed a community paramedic certification program from a college, university, or educational institution that has been approved by the department or accredited by a national accreditation organization approved by the department; and completes an application form. A community paramedic must practice in accordance with the protocols and supervisory standards established by the medical director and must provide the services of a health care plan if the plan has been developed by the patient's physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant and the patient isn't receiving the services from another provider.

An ambulance service must enter into a written contract to provide community paramedic services in another ambulance service area, and the contract may be for an indefinite period of time as long as it includes at least a 60-day cancellation notice by either ambulance service. A person cannot hold himself or herself out as a community paramedic or provide the services of the position unless he or she is certified by the department and the medical director has approved the implementation of the community paramedic program.

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS (Sections 321.015, 321.210, and 321.322)

Currently, a person holding any lucrative office or employment under the state or any of its political subdivisions cannot hold the office of fire protection district director. The bill exempts fire protection districts in Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cape Girardeau, Cole, St. Francois, and Taney counties from this provision.

The filing fee for a candidate for a fire protection district board of director is changed from \$10 to a fee of up to the amount equal to the filing fee for a candidate for state representative.

Currently, when certain cities annex property located within the boundaries of a fire protection district, the city takes over the fire protection service for that property, and the district can no

longer collect taxes on the property. The bill specifies that when the City of DeSoto annexes property located within a fire protection district, the district is to continue to provide fire and emergency medical services to the annexed property. The city must pay the fire protection district an amount equal to the tax that the district would have collected on all taxable property included within the annexed area.