

HCS HB 312 -- UNIVERSITY POLICE OFFICERS

SPONSOR: Thomson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute allows the governing board of any state college or university to enforce campus traffic regulations and the state's general motor vehicle laws through its campus police officers. The governing board is given the authority to establish traffic regulations governing traffic on its campus. The regulations must be codified, printed, and distributed for public use and adequate speed limit signs must be posted. Violations will have the same effect as the violation of municipal ordinances. The substitute specifies that motor vehicles operated on a campus are subject to the state's general motor vehicle laws, that the campus officers must be certified under Chapter 590, RSMo, and that the officers have the same powers as other law enforcement officers certified under that chapter.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that although the University of Missouri, Truman State University, Lincoln University, and Linn State Technical College have statutory traffic enforcement powers, the other universities do not. Recent court decisions have confirmed that the other universities must have a similar provision in order to enforce traffic laws on their campuses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Thomson; Northwest Missouri State University; and Missouri State University.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.