

HB 525 -- DRUG COURTS

SPONSOR: Neely

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill specifies that every circuit court must establish a drug court to provide an alternative for the judicial system to dispose of cases which stem from drug use.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that drug courts have been very successful in helping to treat defendants rather than strictly punishing them. This leads to better overall outcomes and less recidivism.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Neely.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that drug courts are corrupt and are too intrusive into defendants' lives. Moreover, there are reports that drug courts are engaging in human experimentation.

Testifying against the bill was Christine Shuck.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say only two county courts do not have a drug court program. Most responsibility for administering drug courts is at the county level.

Testifying on the bill was Betsy Ledgerwood AuBuchon.