

HCS HB 1044 -- ARMED OFFENDER DOCKET PILOT PROJECT

SPONSOR: Corlew

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 10 to 0.

Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill establishes the Armed Offender Docket Pilot Project in Jackson County Circuit Court. The court has the option to establish or decline to establish the docket. If established, the docket must have dedicated judges and other personnel for specified types of crimes. The circuit court may impose a \$30 surcharge for each case that it hears to defray its operating costs. The bill requires the circuit court to coordinate the sharing of court data with law enforcement and other criminal justice personnel and to provide a public report on operations every year within six months of each anniversary of the creation of the docket. Information that is protected from disclosure by statute or privilege is subject to disclosure only by court order.

The bill will expire December 31, 2021.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will help reduce violent crime in many areas such as St. Louis and Kansas City. Programs that swiftly identify problem offenders and impose punishment or the offer of rehabilitation are the most successful. A credible threat of swift trial and punishment is necessary for deterrence and often prevents recidivism.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Corlew; Great Kansas City Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Jackson County Legislature; Sly James, Kansas City; Joe McHale, Kansas City Missouri Violence Alliance; Caleb Clifford, Jackson County Prosecutors Office; and Missouri Attorney General's Office.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it needs to specify violations to be tried by the armed offender docket.

Testifying on the bill was National Rifle Association-Institute For Legislative Action.