

HB 1960 -- STATE WATER PATROL

SPONSOR: Franklin

This bill transfers the Division of Water Patrol within the Missouri State Highway Patrol to the Missouri State Water Patrol within the Department of Public Safety. In its main provisions, this bill:

- (1) Affords employees of the Division of Water Patrol within the State Highway Patrol who are transferred to the Missouri State Water Patrol the opportunity to elect, within 90 days of January 1, 2017, to remain members of the Missouri Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) or transfer membership to the Missouri State Employees' Retirement System (MOSERS);
- (2) Requires applicants for a temporary boating safety identification card to pass a written exam developed by the Missouri State Water Patrol;
- (3) Authorizes the Missouri State Water Patrol to employ personnel necessary to properly perform the duties of the water patrol;
- (4) Authorizes the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint a Commissioner of the Missouri State Water Patrol. Various restrictions on who may not be appointed commissioner are specified in the bill;
- (5) Requires each water patrol officer appointed by the Missouri State Water Patrol, or any other water patrol employee, to take an oath of office before commencing performance of his or her duties;
- (6) Specifies that the State Treasurer must deposit money, excluding gifts, donations, or bequests, into the state general revenue fund starting January 1 of the current fiscal year if the state's net general revenue did not increase by at least 2% in the previous fiscal year;
- (7) Specifies that the commissioner may appoint no more than 1 assistant commissioner, 2 majors, 9 captains, and 9 lieutenants, all of whom must have the same qualifications as the commissioner;
- (8) Authorizes the commissioner to prescribe policies relating to water patrol officer salaries. The commissioner may also establish circumstances under which water patrol members may be promoted;
- (9) Allows service of a water patrol member who has served in the armed forces and has been other than dishonorably discharged to be

considered service as a member of the water patrol rendered since before enlisting in the armed forces; and

(10) Transfers, effective January 1, 2017, all the powers and duties of the Water Patrol Division within the Missouri State Highway Patrol to the Missouri State Water Patrol within the Department of Public Safety. All tangible property acquired and used by the Water Patrol before December 31, 2016, will be transferred to the Missouri State Water Patrol within the Department of Public Safety. Communication and technology devices, and related personnel, will remain under the Department of Public Safety.