

HB 2236 -- ARMED OFFENDER DOCKET PILOT PROJECT

SPONSOR: Corlew

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 7 to 4.

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, 2022.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1044 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would establish an armed offender docket in Kansas City. There would be dedicated judges and personnel for the docket, which would be devoted to weapons offenses. The University of Missouri- Kansas City (UMKC) would research and report whether the objectives of the docket were being achieved. This docket should result in a quicker case disposition time.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Corlew; Sylvester James, Kansas City; Missouri Attorney General's Office; The Missouri Bar; and the Board Of Police Commissioners of Kansas City.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that an armed offender docket is a problem for the courts. Swift justice means bypassing a lot of critical steps in getting individuals prosecuted.

Testifying against the bill was Justine Del Muro, 16th Circuit Court.