

HB 2283 -- CORRECTIONS HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY

SPONSOR: McCaherty

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Corrections by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill requires, beginning January 1, 2017, all corrections custody officers, as defined in the bill, to receive, in addition to their regular pay, \$75 per month for hazardous duty compensation. This bill further requires, beginning January 1, 2018, all corrections officers to receive, in addition to their regular pay, a second installment of \$75 per month for hazardous duty compensation, for a total of \$150 per month for hazardous duty compensation.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would give hazardous duty pay to our correctional officers. Our correctional officers are some of the lowest paid in the nation. There is a 25% dropout rate annually. We have had to lower our standards just to recruit enough officers. We have dropped the testing rates down to 60%, and dropped the eligible age down to 19. Being a correctional officer is one of the most hazardous jobs a person can have. Each new trainee costs \$8,000-\$12,000 to train. They last weeks or months, they quit, and then we invest that same amount of money in training their replacement. This bill would ultimately result in a net savings and would stabilize the corrections workforce.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McCaherty and Missouri Corrections Officers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say as a department, they are not allowed to put pay increases in their budget, the Governor has to do that.

Testifying on the bill was the Department of Corrections.