

SB 36 -- LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR CERTAIN CIVIL AIR PATROL MEMBERS

SPONSOR: Lembke (Scharnhorst)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 3.

This bill requires an employee of an employer with 50 or more workers who is or may become a member of the civil air patrol and has met certain qualifications or certification to be granted a leave of absence to perform civil air patrol emergency service duty or counter narcotics missions. The employee will not lose time, regular leave, or any other rights or benefits as a result of this leave of absence. The leave cannot be for more than 15 working days in any calendar year, except for when responding to a state or nationally declared emergency in Missouri. The employer cannot be required to pay a salary to the employee during this leave of absence, and the employer has the right to request that the employee be exempted from responding to a specific mission which must be honored by the Missouri Wing Commander of the Missouri Civil Air Patrol.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the civil air patrol provides many services to our communities during emergencies and the bill will provide employment protection to these volunteers from the loss of any rights and benefits while being deployed. The bill does not require an employer to pay compensation during a leave and allows an employer to request an exemption for an employee who is essential to the business.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Lembke; Randy Fuller; and Michael Smith.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.