

HCS SCS SB 387 -- ELECTRONIC MONITORING

SPONSOR: Wasson (Smith, 150)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute specifies that as an alternative to confinement, a judge may place a person on electronic monitoring or order a person to serve all or a portion of a sentence of confinement on electronic monitoring. All costs associated with the electronic monitoring must be charged to the person on house arrest. If a judge finds that a person cannot afford to pay the costs associated with the electronic monitoring, the judge cannot place the individual on house arrest with electronic monitoring.

A judge may, in his or her discretion, credit any period of electronic monitoring against any period of confinement or incarceration ordered; however, electronic monitoring will not be considered as being in custody or incarceration for the purposes of determining eligibility for MO HealthNet benefits or considered confinement in a correctional center or jail for the purposes of determining responsibility for the individual's health care. No court can place a person who is a prior, persistent, aggravated, or chronic offender of intoxicated-related offenses on electronic monitoring.

A circuit court may adopt a local rule authorizing the pretrial release on electronic monitoring in lieu of confinement for anyone charged with one of the specified crimes who pays the costs of electronic monitoring.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Income on General Revenue Fund of Unknown in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide the courts the opportunity of giving proper punishment to offenders while saving the state and counties money. Electronic monitoring allows an offender to continue gainful employment while still being monitored.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wasson; Missouri Association of Counties; and Missouri Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.