

HB 218 -- SHERIFFS

SPONSOR: Wilson

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, a sheriff may expressly request the assistance of any sheriff or deputy sheriff of an adjoining county and the sheriff or deputy has the same powers of arrest in that county as he or she has in his or her own jurisdiction. This bill allows a sheriff to expressly request the assistance of any sheriff or deputy sheriff in Missouri. The county where the sheriff or deputy sheriff rendering assistance is employed must be responsible for workers' compensation insurance, overtime, expense reimbursement, and any and all other liability incurred as part of providing assistance in the requesting county.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that sheriffs, as the chief law enforcement officer of each county, hold tremendous authority and responsibility. Sheriffs become specialized in different areas, such as cyber crimes. By removing the adjoining county requirement, sheriffs will be able to seek assistance from any county, including sheriffs with specialized skills. Deputizing requires more paperwork and time is of the essence during natural disasters or other tragic events. When a sheriff is deputized or commissioned, the agency is required to keep training paperwork on the commission individual for at least five years.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wilson; Missouri Sheriffs Association; and Greg White, Cole County Sheriff.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.