

HB 1199 with HCA 1 and HCA 2 -- MUNICIPAL COURTS

SPONSOR: Cornejo

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill requires, by December 31, 2015, the presiding judge of each municipal division of a circuit court to report its name and address and any other requested information to the Office of State Courts Administrator. If a municipality elects to abolish or establish a municipal division, the presiding judge of the municipal division must report the dissolution or establishment to the State Courts Administrator.

HCA 1: Requires that the presiding judge of each municipal division report to the clerk of the supreme court, rather than the Office of the State Courts Administrator

HCA 2: Includes the provisions from HB 1300

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that currently, the Supreme Court doesn't know how many municipal courts are operating in Missouri and this prevents effective oversight of the municipal courts. The bill requires each municipal court to make itself known. This will help prevent abusive practices and improve oversight.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cornejo; Betsy Ledgerwood AuBuchon; State Auditor's Office; Dan Hyatt; and ACLU of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.