

HCS SB 211 -- ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Walsh (Cornejo)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, the Secretary of State administers a program to protect victims of domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, or stalking by assigning substitute addresses to these victims. State and local government agencies must accept the substitute address when creating public records relating to a participant in the program.

This bill provides that victims of human trafficking may also participate in the program.

The bill allows a sheriff to issue a concealed carry permit bearing a numerical designation in place of a name and showing a non-permanent address to an individual qualified to obtain a permit who is a current member of the safe at home restricted address program operated by the Office of the Secretary of State. The sheriff may request the Secretary of State to confirm his or her participation in the program.

The sheriff is required to use the applicant's actual name and permanent address, regardless of participation in the program, to conduct all criminal background checks required for a concealed carry permit. The sheriff's office must retain the actual identifying information and permanent address for use by law enforcement agencies.

A qualified instructor offering a concealed carry class in this state must accept and issue the verification using the numerical designation and non-permanent address of a member of the program and issue the verification with the numerical designation and address used in the safe at home program.

The Office of Secretary of State and any sheriff's office may release the personal identifying information on any holder of a concealed carry permit who is also a member of the safe at home program to state or federal law enforcement as authorized by law.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that victims of human trafficking face threats from a variety of different criminal actors and need additional protection from discovery. This bill provides them with protection from their address being discovered.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Walsh; Colleen S. Coble; Missouri Kids First; and Office of the Missouri Secretary Of State.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.