

SCS SB 321 -- ORDERS OF PROTECTION

SPONSOR: Hegeman (Lant)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill changes the provisions regarding court orders of protection. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Adds causing or attempting to cause another person to engage involuntarily in a sexual act without his or her consent to the definition of "sexual assault";

(2) Adds that an individual who resides in the same household with the individual seeking the order of protection and it is reasonable in individuals' situation to have been alarmed by his or her conduct to the definition of "Stalking";

(3) Replaces repeated acts in the definition of "course of conduct" with two or more acts; and

(4) Allows a victim of sexual assault to be granted an order of protection from the court.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that current law has several major gaps for victims of sexual assault. This bill will fill in these gaps. Moreover, it will strengthen adult protection orders and make response to abusers and stalkers faster.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Hegeman; Colleen Coble; and Missouri Kids First.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.