

HB 1396 -- ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

SPONSOR: McCreery

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 9 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 such victims. State and local government agencies must accept the substitute address when creating public records relating to a participant in the program.

This bill allows victims of human trafficking to participate in the program.

This bill is the same as HB 368 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill wants to expand the Safe at Home program to victims of human trafficking, thereby making these victims eligible for the program. Participants in this program are given a special ID card that entities know must be accepted in lieu of proof of address. This program is extremely important in helping protect victims of the specified offenses and helping them feel safe.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McCreery; Missouri Family Network; Rachel Greathouse, Empower Missouri; Missouri Secretary of State; Jennifer Carter, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic And Sexual Violence; Missouri Office of Child Advocate; Deborah Hume, Missouri Mental Health Counselors Association; Emily Russell; Katie Rhoades, Healing Action; and Wayne Lee.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.