

HCB 7 -- LEGAL EXPENSES OF STATE AGENCIES

SPONSOR: Fitzwater (144)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules - Legislative Oversight by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill requires the Attorney General to submit a report to various individuals, specified in the bill, by no later than September 15, 2017, and every 15th of the month thereafter, detailing all activity concerning lawsuits filed against the Missouri Department of Corrections and the State Legal Expense Fund, including any payments from or deposits to such fund.

Additionally, the Director of the Department of Corrections shall meet with the House Committee on Corrections and Public Institutions or its successor committee at least twice a year to discuss any issues or concerns within the department.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that in recent history, this state has paid millions of dollars as a result of lawsuits involving the Department of Corrections. This bill would require the Attorney General to make settlement information public.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Fitzwater.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the current Attorney General is planning to release a report on the settled cases and cases in which judgments have been received on April 30 and every 30 days in the future.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Attorney General's Office.