

HB 1859 -- MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

SPONSOR: Rhoads

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill specifies that, whenever any law enforcement agency enters into a mutual aid agreement with another entity, any law enforcement officer assisting the requesting agency shall have the same powers of arrest as he or she has in his or her own jurisdiction and the same powers of arrest as officers of the requesting agency. Such powers shall be limited to the location of the requested services and to the duration of the specific event.

Any law enforcement officer assisting a requesting agency under a mutual aid agreement shall be deemed an employee of the sending agency and shall be subject to the benefit provisions provided to him or her as an employee of the sending agency. Additionally, any law enforcement officer assisting a requesting agency under a mutual aid agreement shall enjoy the same legal immunities as an officer of the requesting agency.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are officers and deputies in other counties who would like to help smaller counties, so a mutual aid agreement such as this one is necessary. Currently, only adjoining counties may enter into mutual aid agreements, but sometimes counties need help from or can offer help to counties outside the adjoining areas.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rhoads; Missouri Police Chiefs Association; and Stephen Korte, Pike County Sheriff Office.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.