

HCS HB 1521 -- CAPITOL POLICE BOARD

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules Administrative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1521.

This bill establishes the "Capitol Police Board" which shall consist of the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tem of the Senate, and the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, or their designees, and the chair of the State Capitol Commission. This board shall be housed in the House of Representatives for administration purposes and provide for public safety at the seat of government and for the safety and security of elected officials, government employees, and their guests as needed outside the seat of government. The board shall hire a chief of police and establish all necessary rules and regulations.

The bill specifies the Circuit Court of Cole County has authority to enforce the traffic or parking regulations of the Capitol Police Board.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill is needed to create better safety and security in the Capitol and the rest of the state office complex. It gives the Capitol Police Board the ability to hire and fire the chief of police and provide security as needed in districts.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Hicks.

OPPOSERS: Opponents say that the Department of Public Safety is doing a good job of managing the Capitol Police and no changes are needed.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.