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Protecting Missouri's Peace Officers

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Protecting Missouri's Peace Officers

Jefferson City, Missouri - Missouri 151st State Representative Tila Hubrecht put in her Capitol Report the following comments about protecting Missouri's Peace Officers! The Missouri House took action this week to deter crimes against law enforcement officials. House members approved legislation that would create enhanced penalties for individuals who assault officers of the law.

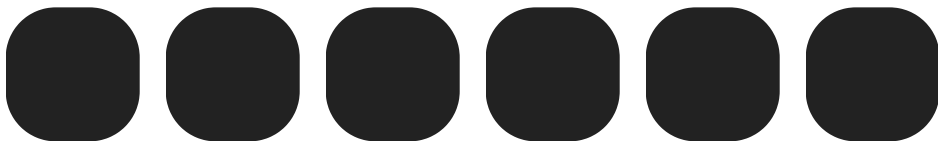
The legislation would increase by one degree the penalty for voluntary or involuntary manslaughter; first- or second-degree property damage; unlawful use of a weapon; rioting; or first-degree trespassing; when those crimes are committed against a law enforcement officer. As an example, voluntary manslaughter is a class B felony under current statute, but if HB 57 becomes law, voluntary manslaughter committed against a law enforcement officer would see the penalty increased to a class A felony.

As the bill's sponsor told her colleagues, "Hopefully these additional penalties will be a deterrent for anyone who may be considering engaging in a crime against these public servants. This law is intended to further protect those who have dedicated themselves to safeguarding our communities," stated Tila Hubrecht, 151st State Representative.

Supporters of the bill said the enhanced penalties are necessary because crimes against law enforcement officers have increased in recent years. They also said the bill would reinforce the legislature's commitment to law enforcement.

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