

HCS HB 885 -- NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES

SPONSOR: Hunter (Wilson, 130)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 9 to 5.

This substitute prohibits any public institution or entity that receives state funds from adopting a nondiscrimination policy that exceeds current federal protections provided by federal workplace discrimination laws.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that public institutions adopting nondiscrimination policies which exceed federal requirements place state funds at risk. State funds used to defend against a lawsuit or to pay a settlement are not being used in the taxpayer's best interest. The bill will prevent well-intended acts by entities and institutions which could cost tax dollars.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wilson (130); Missouri Family Network; Missouri Baptist Convention; and Christian Life Convention.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it prohibits the state from using vendors who may not comply with the provisions of the bill. Civil liberties must not be denied, and all Missouri citizens should receive equal protection under the law.

Testifying against the bill were PROMO; Missouri Women's Network; and Missouri National Organization for Women.

Roland Tackett, Legislative Analyst