

HCS HB 350 -- CONCEALING ILLEGAL ALIENS

SPONSOR: Nolte (Parkinson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on International Trade and Immigration by a vote of 7 to 1.

This substitute makes it a crime for a person to conceal, harbor, or shelter from detection any alien knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that the alien has entered or remained in the country illegally. A violation of this crime is a felony punishable by not less than one year's imprisonment, a fine of not less than \$1,000, or both.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will discourage illegal immigration.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Parkinson; and Janet Rennier, Missourians Against Illegal Immigration.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the prohibition against concealing, harboring, or sheltering an illegal alien will greatly impede and could ultimately shut down the activities of Catholic charities. Arbitrarily lowering from 18 years to 14 years the age at which an applicant for public benefits must provide proof of citizenship or lawful presence will also cause problems for charities and will raise costs for the state.

Testifying against the bill were Catholic Charities Archdiocese of St. Louis; Service Employees International Union, Missouri/Kansas State Council; American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri; Jennifer Rafanan, Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates; and University of Central Missouri.