

HCS HB 2081 -- USE OF FORCE TO DEFEND AN UNBORN CHILD

SPONSOR: Jones, 89 (Riddle)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 5.

This substitute specifies that a pregnant woman may use deadly force to protect her unborn child if she reasonably believes that deadly force is necessary.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill clarifies that a woman has an explicit right to use deadly force if she is assaulted in a manner threatening her unborn child.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Riddle; Greg White, Cole County Sheriff; Missouri Sheriff's Association; Missouri Police Chiefs' Association; Missouri State Troopers Association; and Bruce McLaughlin.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that pregnant women are often targets of violence and should be protected.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.