

HJR 15 -- BIRD, FISH, GAME, WILDLIFE, OR FORESTRY RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Ruzicka

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources by a vote of 12 to 1.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority for voter approval of an initiative petition relating to harvesting bird, fish, game, wildlife, or forestry resources. An initiative petition that establishes, amends, or repeals sales taxes for conservation purposes will still require only a simple majority approval.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 or a cost of More than \$7,000,000 in FY 2012, an income of \$0 or a cost of More than \$7,000,000 in FY 2013, and an income of \$0 in FY 2014. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the state needs to be proactive in opposing efforts to restrict citizens' rights to legally harvest fish, wildlife, and forestry resources of the state. The bill will protect against petition efforts to restrict these rights and protect the tourism revenues produced by the unique and effective wildlife management system in Missouri. Hunting and fishing is a multi-billion dollar industry in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ruzicka; Conservation Federation of Missouri; Missouri Farm Bureau; and Department of Conservation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.