

HCS HB 513 -- PROTECTION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

SPONSOR: Bahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by a vote of 9 to 2.

This substitute specifies that the liberty of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and care of his or her child is a fundamental right. The State of Missouri and any political subdivision of the state is prohibited from infringing on this right without demonstrating a compelling governmental interest. Any law or policy must be narrowly tailored and by the least restrictive means to achieve the interest.

These provisions apply to all laws of the state, whether adopted before or after the enactment of these provisions. Any law adopted after the enactment of these provisions is exempt only if the law explicitly excludes the application by reference to these provisions.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is designed to put into statute the strict scrutiny that must be used when examining a person's fundamental right to raise his or her child.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bahr; Jill Johnson; Families for Home Education; Concerned Women for America of Missouri; and Home School Legal Defense Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that they want to ensure that abused and neglected children are still protected and that a parent's parental rights are not superior to a child's right to safety.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Kids First.