

HCS HJR 35 -- RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

SPONSOR: Jones (50)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 3.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment adds the right of a citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his or her family to the current right to keep and bear arms in defense of a citizen's home, person and property. The amendment repeals the provision specifying that the right must not justify the wearing of a concealed weapon. The amendment reaffirms that the right to keep and bear arms is unalienable and the state must be obligated to uphold these rights and must, under no circumstances, decline to protect against its infringement except as authorized by law pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the amendment allows the citizens of the state to vote to uphold and support their Constitutional right to keep and bear arms. It sends a clear message from the state that this right is important to Missourians.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Jones (50); and Missourians for Personal Safety.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill were available to answer any questions.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Office of Prosecution Services.