

SCS SJR 36 -- RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

SPONSOR: Schaefer (Diehl)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 2.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment modifies provisions regarding the right to keep and bear arms. This amendment provides that a citizen has the right to keep and bear arms, ammunition, and accessories typical to the normal function of the arms, in defense of his or her family, in addition to the current rights in defense of home, person and property. The amendment removes language stating that the right to keep and bear arms did not justify the wearing of concealed weapons.

The amendment provides that the rights guaranteed under this provision of the Constitution are unalienable. Any restriction on these rights shall be subject to strict scrutiny. The State of Missouri is obligated to uphold these rights and must not decline to protect against their infringement. Nothing in this amendment is to be construed to prevent the passage of laws by the General Assembly that limit these rights for convicted violent felons or persons adjudged as mentally infirm.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this amendment protects Missourians' constitutional right to bear arms.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Schaefer.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.