

HB 571 -- TENANT SECURITY DEPOSITS

SPONSOR: Burlison

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by a vote of the Select Committee on the Judiciary by a vote of 7 to 3.

Currently, a landlord may not demand or receive a security deposit in excess of two months' rent. This bill repeals that provision.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows landlords more flexibility in deciding who to rent to because they can leverage larger security deposits against more risky lessees. This will allow people with poor credit scores more access to housing.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Burlison and Missouri Association of Realtors.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that allowing landlords to charge larger security deposits will make it more difficult for low-income families to afford housing.

Testifying against the bill was Jeanette Mott Oxford, Empower Missouri.