

HJR 50 with HCA 1 -- COMMON LAW

SPONSOR: Corlew

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs by a vote of 6 to 4.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment allows the General Assembly to change or repeal any provision of common law.

HCA 1: Makes a technical change to the bill

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the judicial branch is activist in its interpretation of laws and the legislature should have authority to change laws and court interpretations that it disagrees with.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Corlew; Associated Industries Of Missouri; and Mark Behrens, American Tort Reform Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that repealing common law is an invasion on the judicial branch's authority to interpret law. It will also give the legislature too much power.

Testifying against the bill was Todd Werts, Missouri Association Of Trial Attorneys.