

HCS HJR 39, 38, 42 & 47 -- SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

SPONSOR: Phillips (Engler)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 8 to 6.

This proposed constitutional amendment establishes that marriage in this state will consist only of the union between a man and a woman, and no license to marry will be issued except to a man and a woman. Marriage between persons of the same sex, and full faith and credit of that marital status entered into in another state, will not be recognized as marriage in Missouri.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$36,840 in FY 2005, \$0 in FY 2006, and \$0 in FY 2007. No impact on other state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Missouri should value the sanctity of marriage, and that the citizens of the state should be able to decide whether to allow same-sex marriage. The amendment deals with an issue that has recently come up on a national level. Marriage is an important institution in our society and has been attacked in recent years. If marriage is important to society, then it is important that a provision like this be in the state's constitution. Marriage is a moral issue, and the state should help to strengthen marriage, not weaken it.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Engler, Baker, Morris, and Wilson (130); Missouri Catholic Conference; and Missouri Baptist Foundation.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the amendment say that Missouri has already passed a law defining the public policy that marriage in this state is between a man and a woman. The amendment goes beyond the passing of legislation by limiting the ability of future legislatures to change their minds about this issue. The majority of Missourians don't support same-sex marriage, and the state currently doesn't allow it.

Testifying against the bill were American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri; PROMO; Missouri Women's Network; and Franklin McCallie.

Amy Woods, Legislative Analyst