

HB 708 -- CHOICE OF LAW

SPONSOR: Curtman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill specifies that any court, tribunal, arbitration, or administrative agency decision or ruling which is based, in whole or in part, on foreign law or legal code that would not grant the parties affected by the decision or ruling the same rights granted under the Missouri Constitution or the United States Constitution will violate the public policy of Missouri and be void.

A contract which provides for the choice of law or legal code to govern any dispute which does not grant the same rights under the Missouri Constitution or the United States Constitution will violate the public policy of Missouri and be void.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will ensure that Missourians receive all rights granted under the Missouri Constitution and the United States Constitution.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Curtman.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill will complicate the ability of Missourians to enter into contacts with international businesses.

Testifying against the bill were Vanessa Crawford, Jewish Community Relations Council and Council on American Islamic Relations of St. Louis; and American Civil Liberties Union - Eastern Missouri.