

HB 300 with HCA 1 -- JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Consumer Affairs by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill redefines the term "child" to include any person under 18 years of age and redefines the term "adult" to mean any person 18 years of age or older. The bill repeals the definition of a "status offense."

HCA 1: Provides that the bill will not become affective until January 1, 2017 and cannot be enforced until specific appropriations are made for the bill's implementation.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will prevent children under the age of 18 from emancipating themselves under less than ideal conditions. It will also allow parents of 17 year olds to be informed of issues which are currently non-disclosable due to privacy laws.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hicks; Families and Friends Organized To Reform Juvenile Justice; Greg White, Cole County Sheriff's Department; Jeff Bradley; CNS Corporation; Cozad Company, LLC; Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies; Missouri Public Defender's Office; M&R Strategic Services; Missouri Family Network; Empower Missouri (Formerly Missouri Association For Social Welfare); Rachelle Eagen, Young Women For America Of Missouri; Missouri Catholic Conference; Carmen Daugherty, Campaign For Youth Justice; Concerned Women For America Of Missouri; and Tony Shepherd.

OPPONENTS: Opponents of the bill say that the state is not procedurally set up to deal with people who are between the ages of 17 and 18 being adults. Furthermore, the state should move slowly in implementing the policy of raising the age of adulthood as there are many unintended consequences.

Testifying against the bill were Matt Selby, Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; Missouri Juvenile Justice Association; Tammy Walden; Jason Cadell; and Beverly Newman.