

HB 1715 -- BULLYING OF ELDERLY PERSONS

SPONSOR: Wilson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill specifies that bullying an elderly person constitutes elderly abuse. The bill defines bullying as intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable person to fear for his or her physical safety or property and may consist of physical actions including gestures; cyberbullying; oral, electronic, or written communication; and any threat of retaliation for reporting of such acts.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill adds the word "bullying" to the definition of "abuse", and then defines "bullying".

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wilson; Wayne Lee; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.