

HCS HB 1841 -- YOUTH HUNTING

SPONSOR: Houghton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 5 to 3.

This bill requires a person at least six years of age but less than 16 years of age possessing a valid hunting permit to hunt in the immediate presence of an adult who is at least 18 years of age and has in his or her possession a valid hunter education certificate card. An adult is not required to possess a hunting permit while accompanying the youth hunter.

This bill is the similar to HB 450 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that currently both the youth hunter and the adult accompanying the youth must purchase a hunting permit even if the adult is not planning to take an animal. This extra cost deters some adults from taking a youth hunting. This bill would increase youth hunting participation.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Houghton.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that Missouri leads the nation in hunter recruitment and retention and that by accompanying the youth on the hunt, the adult is participating in the hunt and therefore, needs to purchase a hunting permit.

Testifying against the bill was Conservation Federation of Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that hunting permits cost less than they do in most states and the combined cost of both the youth and adults permit is less than the cost of only the youth permit in most states.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Department of Conservation.