

HCS HJRS 23 & 38 -- RIGHT TO HUNT AND FISH

SPONSOR: Black (137)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 10 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 23.

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment guarantees the right of hunters and anglers in the state to engage in hunting and harvesting wildlife and fishing using traditional legal means, subject to duly authorized powers of the Conservation Commission. The amendment does not prevent the General Assembly from enacting laws that limit the rights of convicted violent felons or those deemed by a court to be a danger as a result of a mental disorder or mental infirmity. The amendment also does not modify property rights or trespass laws.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this resolution, if passed by the voters, would enshrine the right of Missourians to hunt and fish for future generations. Hunting provides food for many Missourians and also serves the state in predator and disease control

Testifying for the bill were Representative Black; Sporting Dog Association of Missouri. Additional written testimony was also submitted in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the right to hunt and fish in Missouri are well protected without this resolution. The resolution could have unintended consequences; one of which is increased litigation costs for the Department defending legal challenges to the Department's new and revised regulations.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Department Of Conservation.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.