

HCS HB 1720 -- SUNSHINE LAW

SPONSOR: Falkner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 11 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1720.

This bill allows for the closure of certain records under the Sunshine law.

This bill authorizes a public governmental body to close records that contain individually identifiable information of a minor 17 years and under held by a public governmental body that is a city, town, village, or park board.

This bill is similar to HB 1059, SB 174, and HB 394 (2023).

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that everything that can be done to protect minors should be done, and this bill, especially as amended, will help to do that.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Falkner; Municipal League Metro St. Louis; Missouri Municipal League; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that most of the problems with the bill will be stripped out by the amendment, but there still are concerns that the bill will become a vehicle for other changes to the sunshine laws.

Testifying in person on the bill was Jean Maneke, Missouri Press Association.

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