

HCS HJR 82 & 106 -- 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 14 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 82.

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.

This bill is the same as HCS HJR 23 (2021).

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 was Representative Black. Additional testimony was submitted in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS: Those testifying in opposition to the bill say that the language in the bill does not guarantee any additional rights so long as it is contingent on the duly authorized powers of the Missouri Conservation Commission.

Testifying in opposition to the bill was Dustin Bell. Additional written testimony was submitted in opposition to the bill.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill said that it is important to enshrine the right to hunt and fish but also expressed concerns regarding the language of the resolution that makes it subject to the duly authorized powers of the Commission.

Testifying on the bill was Robert Elder. Additional written

testimony was submitted for informational purposes.

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.