

HB 406 -- CHILD WITNESSES

CO-SPONSORS: Johnson (90), Harris (110), Bringer, Jolly, Kelly (36), Willoughby

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 18 to 0.

Under current law, certain statements made by children under the age of 12 relating to offenses pursuant to Chapter 565, RSMo (Offenses Against the Person); Chapter 566 (Sexual Offenses); and Chapter 568 (Offenses Against the Family) are admissible into evidence in criminal proceedings in certain situations. This bill changes the age limitation to 14 years.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the age limit for admissibility of children's statements should be raised to be the same as the age limit in child molestation laws.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Johnson (90); and Robert Wilkins, Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst