

SJR 29 -- SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

SPONSOR: Steelman (Engler)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 7 to 6.

This proposed constitutional amendment specifies that only marriages between a man and a woman will be valid and recognized in the State of Missouri.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$36,840 in FY 2005, \$0 in FY 2006, and \$0 in FY 2007. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the resolution gives Missouri citizens the opportunity to express their opinions and values on how marriage should be defined in Missouri. It encourages responsibility and faithful relationships. Redefining marriage to include other types of relationships erodes the institution of marriage. It is prudent to amend the Missouri Constitution because of what has happened in other states.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Steelman; Missouri Catholic Conference; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Baptist Convention; and Concerned Women of America.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the amendment will limit the rights of Missourians. The issue is about equal application of the law to all citizens of the state.

Testifying against the bill were Michael Getty; and PROMO.

Amy Woods, Legislative Analyst