

HJR 43 -- BIRD, FISH, WILDLIFE, AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Dethrow

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 8 to 1 with 1 present.

This proposed constitutional amendment requires, upon voter approval, a two-thirds majority for voter approval of initiative proposals relating to harvesting bird, fish, wildlife, or forestry resources. Measures that repeal initiative proposals previously approved by voters will require only a simple majority.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost to General Revenue Fund of \$52,560 in FY 2007, \$0 in FY 2008, and \$0 in FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that different groups have the ability to organize initiative ballot measures to take away the Department of Conservation's authority to control and manage fish, forestry, and wildlife. The bill will give the Department of Conservation the ability to continue managing forestry and wildlife services and programs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dethrow; Conservation Federation of Missouri; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Missouri Farm Bureau; National Wild Turkey Federation; and Jerry Presley.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that it will restrict voters' rights. Initiative petitions are a way for citizens to express their voice, and one group should not be excluded.

Testifying against the bill were Sierra Club; and Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst