

HCS HJR 9 -- BIRD, FISH, WILDLIFE, AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Hobbs (Dethrow)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 9 to 2.

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

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill raises the amount of voter support necessary to pass initiative petitions that affect fish, forestry, and wildlife. Currently, emotions and propaganda are being used to pass ballot initiatives, not facts.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dethrow; Karen Strange, Conservation Federation of Missouri; Sporting Dog Association; Brian Brookshire, Missouri Forest Products Association; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that by eliminating the "one person, one vote" standard, the resolution goes against the basic principles of government.

Testifying against the bill was Sierra Club.