

SB 257 -- FIREARMS

SPONSOR: Engler (Pearce)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill prohibits the state or any political subdivision from restricting the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, or use of firearms or ammunition during an emergency.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will protect the United States Second Amendment civil liberties of Missouri citizens during emergencies. The bill is designed to avoid Hurricane Katrina situations where the government seized legally possessed firearms or prevented the lawful ownership or transfer of firearms and ammunition. The bill will not expand current privileges regarding weapon use.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Engler; National Rifle Association; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.