

HCS HB 2110 -- DISPLAY OF DOCUMENTS WITH RELIGIOUS CONTENT

SPONSOR: Jones, 89 (Dixon)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 6 to 0.

This substitute prohibits any governing authority, board, commission, personnel of any political subdivision, any elected or appointed official, or an employee of the state from preventing the display of the founding documents of the United States or the State of Missouri regardless of whether the documents contain religious content.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is necessary to protect a government's right to place historically relevant and historically important texts or relics that document the founding of our nation and state despite the fact that they may contain references to a Deity, religious laws, religious practices, or religious observances. The bill does not authorize any displays of founding documents inconsistent with the United States Supreme Court's opinions in *Van Orden vs. Perry*, 545 US 677 (2005) and *McCreary County vs. American Civil Liberties Union of Ky.*, 545 US 844 (2005).

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dixon; and Dee Wampler.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that local governments cannot prohibit the placement of monuments, relics, or texts that are founding documents. The bill should also apply to state government buildings and properties and state appointed or elected officials.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Municipal League.