HCS HB 632 -- MISSOURI RIGHT TO PROTECTION ACT

SPONSOR: Munzlinger (Guest)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Missouri Right to Protection Act. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Specifies that citizens of Missouri have the right under the United States Constitution to protect themselves using guns, mace, or any means necessary to stop an assailant;

(2) Specifies that citizens of Missouri have the right to defend themselves without government interference unless in the act of committing a crime;

(3) Prohibits any governmental agency from waiving the gun and ammunition rights of Missouri citizens and tracking their guns and ammunition, including markings or radio frequency identification dust, paint, or by any other direct identifiers; and

(4) Specifies that citizens of Missouri have the constitutional right to privacy in their homes, farms, vehicles, trailers, or other places of domicile and to be anonymous unless in the act of committing a crime.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the protection of Missourian's second amendment rights from federal interference and the right to protect their families and property should be fully supported by all members of the Missouri General Assembly. The bill provides an extension of the castle doctrine that allows citizens to protect their private property. Gun registration measures, as found in federal legislation, may become gun confiscation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Guest; National Rifle Association of America; Missouri Family Network; James Fisher; and Gordon Butler.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that case law affirms the castle doctrine.

Testifying on the bill was Shawn Casity.