

HB 1755 -- PROTECTION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS

SPONSOR: Bahr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill specifies that the liberty of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and care of his or her child is a fundamental right. The State of Missouri and any political subdivision of the state is prohibited from infringing on this right without demonstrating a compelling governmental interest.

Any law or policy must be narrowly tailored and by the least restrictive means to achieve the interest. These provisions apply to all laws of the state, whether adopted before or after the enactment of these provisions. Any law adopted after the enactment of these provisions is exempt only if the law explicitly excludes the application by reference to these provisions.

This bill is the same as HB 557 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a parental rights bill that would put into statute the strict scrutiny standard that is applied to the fundamental right to direct the care and upbringing of one's child. This bill is intended to protect parents.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bahr; Missouri Family Network; and Jill Johnson.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.