

HB 2241 with HCA 1 -- BILL OF RIGHTS IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Dohrman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 11 to 2.

This bill requires introductory courses in American government and American history be given in all public and private Missouri schools, except privately operated trade schools, beginning not later than 7th grade and continuing into high school and college. High schools shall also be required to offer in grades nine through 12 courses on the Bill of Rights which include the original intent as well as historical and current interpretations and applications.

HCA #1: This amendment prohibits students from receiving a certificate of graduation prior to passing an examination on the principles and provisions of the Bill of Rights, including original intent as well as historical and current interpretations and applications.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help to address the lack of knowledge about the bill of rights. This is not intended to tell people how to think or teachers how to teach. It is intended to provide students with this information. If this isn't taught young people won't become involved with the political process.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dohrman; Missouri Education Reform Council; Robin Blackburn; and James W. Page III.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.