

HB 2698 with HCA 1 -- CONCEALED CARRY HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Taylor (139)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 8 to 3.

Currently, a concealed carry permit does not allow a person to carry concealed firearms into any higher education institution without the consent of the governing body of the institution or a school official. This bill changes the law to allow concealed carry except in certain locations within a higher education institution.

This bill is similar to SCS SB 589 (2016).

HCA #1: This amendment clarifies that firearms are permitted in public areas such as lounges, lobbies, and dining areas but not dormitories. The amendment also specifies that the bill will not become effective until August 1, 2017.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that students have the right to protect themselves. Police and campus public safety cannot protect individual students or prevent violence on campus.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Taylor; National Rifle Association-Institute For Legislative Action; Daniel R Abbott; Chris Byer; Jordan Duecker; Philip Rexing, Missouri S&T College Republicans; and Jake Buxton, Missouri Federation Of College Republicans.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that while individuals have a right to be concerned about safety on college campuses there is no evidence that this bill would make campuses safer. Colleges and universities already employ experts to help them develop and implement public safety policies. Allowing guns on campus could actually cause more problems. Many college students are living on their own without parental supervision for the first time. These students often experiment with drugs and alcohol. Mixing drugs or alcohol with guns could have disastrous consequences. Many of the students themselves would feel less safe if concealed carry is allowed on their campus.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri State University; Becky Morgan, Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America; Independent Colleges & Universities Of Missouri; Missouri Western State University; Missouri National Education Association; Paul Wagner, Codlie; AFT St. Louis Local 420; Evan Chiarelli; Elizabeth Condon; Douglas Witt, College Democrats Of Missouri; Jacob Brooke; and

Andrew Mangrum.