

HCS HB 2276 -- UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

SPONSOR: Lichtenegger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill modifies the categories of persons who cannot possess firearms. The bill adds any person who is illegally or unlawfully in the United States, any person who was once a United States citizen but has renounced that citizenship, or any person who has been dishonorably discharged cannot possess a firearm.

This bill also changes the elements of domestic assault in both the third and fourth degree. The bill states that a judge, in his or discretion, can, at the time of issuing a restraining order, also prohibit the possession or purchasing of a firearm for as long as the restraining order is in effect.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

This bill is similar to HB 766 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when a concealed carry permit was required in order to carry a concealed weapon in this state individuals convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence or subject to an order of protection were prevented from carrying firearms but with the recent change in the concealed carry laws these individuals can now carry weapons. Supporters stressed that there is a real danger of victims of domestic violence being shot or killed by their abusers. Supporters also testified that the original version of this bill is the same as federal law.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lichtenegger; Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Judith L. Kile, COPE; and Carla Simpson.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.