

HCS HB 2284 -- CAMPUS FREE EXPRESSION ACT

SPONSOR: Dohrman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill modifies the Campus Free Expression Act. The bill requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy on free expression by January 1, 2019. The free expression policy must be consistent with several principles of free speech specified in the bill. The free expression policy shall be made available to students and faculty annually.

The bill also requires institutions to adopt a "student-on-student harassment" policy and a "student-on-student intimidation" policy.

The bill shall not be interpreted as prohibiting an institution from imposing restrictions on expressions that do not violate the United States Constitution or the Missouri Constitution.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill protects free speech.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dohrman; Joe Cohn, Foundation For Individual Rights In Education (FIRE); and the Missouri Education Reform Council.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that they support the intent behind this bill but think the language still needs some work.

Testifying on the bill was the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri.