

HCS HB 1300 -- VITAL RECORDS

SPONSOR: Dinkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1300.

This bill permits a parent of a homeless child, or a homeless or unaccompanied youth, to obtain vital records at no cost. It also enables an unaccompanied youth to be able to obtain a copy of his or her own birth certificate without the consent or signature of a parent or guardian.

The bill also provides a victim of domestic violence or abuse, including sexual violence, that is engaged with an agency accredited with the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a one-time fee waiver for obtaining a copy of a birth certificate.

This bill is the same as HCS HB 1135 (2019).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that birth certificates are absolutely necessary for people to be productive, working members of society. Abusers know this and often hide or destroy birth certificates to make it harder on their victims. Homeless youth and kids aging out of the foster care system also need access to be able to move into more positive situations and without them are at risk of more dangerous situations.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dinkins; Craig Stevenson, Kids Win Missouri; Deanna Alonso, Central Missouri Foster Care And Adoption Association; Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies; Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence; Allison Gregory, Foster Adopt Connect; and Tracy Carroll, South East Missouri Family Violence Council.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.