

HCS HB 1558 -- GUARDIANS AND CONSERVATORS

SPONSOR: Evans

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 1558.

This bill adds grandparents to the list of people who do not require a background screening when being named guardians or conservators.

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 this removes another barrier for families who are willing to serve as guardians. It is important for public administrators and that change was made, but this is the next step in simplifying the system.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Evans; Missouri Association of Public Administrators; and Phillip Warren, 33rd Circuit Juvenile Office.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that almost 95% of victims can identify their perpetrators and in cases of the disabled, the perpetrator is almost always a family member. He also said that he recently went through this personally and it cost less than \$1000, including the background check and he was happy to do it.

Testifying against the bill was Ed Thomas, Missouri Association of County Development Disabilities Services.