

HB 259 -- SEXUAL OFFENSES

SPONSOR: Evans

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill changes the definition of "sexual contact" and it adds a coach, assistant coach, director, or other adult with a school-aged team, club, or ensemble, regardless of whether such team, club, or ensemble is connected to a school or scholastic association to the list of those who can be charged with committing the offense of sexual contact with a student.

This bill is the same as HB 2695 (2020).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this changes two definitions in the criminal code, and this is based on actual cases that occur. This clarifies who certain offenses apply to, including the offense of sexual contact with a student. Kids are in a position of trust with adults and they should expect to maintain that trust whether the kids are on a school sports' team or on a private sports team.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Evans; Arnie Dienoff; and Matthew Becker, Missouri Association Of Prosecuting Attorney's.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.