

HCS HBs 420 & 1066 -- DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES

SPONSOR: Proudie

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Return to the Committee of Origin" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 420.

This bill establishes the "Missouri Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (Missouri CROWN) Act".

The bill prohibits discrimination on the basis of hair texture and protective hairstyles in educational institutions that receive or benefit from state financial assistance or state student financial aid. The bill authorizes educational institutions to require hair nets and hair coverings for safety purposes in career and technical training courses.

This bill is similar to HB 2356 (2020).

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 many students across the country have been placed in humiliating discriminatory situations due to their hairstyles and Missouri should do better. Witnesses gave examples of their own experiences and others of people they know.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Proudie; Arnie Dienoff; Cheryl Adelstein, Jewish Community Relations Council; American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri; National Association of Social Workers-Missouri Chapter; and Dominique Thurman.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that they are against expanding the definition of "race" for purposes of the Missouri Human Rights Act to include hairstyles.

Testifying against the bill was the Associated Industries of Missouri.

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.