

SB 542 -- VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

SPONSOR: Eigel (Riley)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 4, with 1 present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 4 to 2.

This bill provides that no member of the Missouri National Guard shall be required by the Governor or the Adjutant General to receive a COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of state service.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that soldiers are leaving the National Guard at a faster rate than they are enlisting. The strength and size of National Guard units are critical to the defense and safety of the United States and Missouri. Vaccine mandates impede military readiness. Many governors have already affirmed that COVID-19 vaccination requirements for armed forces have security interest implications. This bill does not affect federal mandates. This bill is not an anti-vaccine bill, but instead a recruitment and retention bill that promotes the individual liberty of soldiers.

Testifying in person for the bill was Senator Eigel.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under "House Testimony on Senate Bills" on the House website.