

HCS HBs 1471,1607 & 1797 -- DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

SPONSOR: Sander

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency and Downsizing by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1471.

This bill establishes the "Daylight Saving as New Standard Time Pact", consisting of this state and any other state desiring to permanently change Daylight Saving Time to new Standard Time.

On the effective date of the bill, the time formerly known as Daylight Saving Time will become Standard Time. After this time, Missouri will no longer observe Daylight Saving Time.

This bill specifies that if the Federal Government enforces 15 U.S.C. Section 260a, Missouri and its political subdivisions must follow standard time. Also, if the Federal Government adopts Daylight Saving Time as the new Standard, Missouri must adjust its clocks accordingly.

This bill is similar to HB 265 (2023) and HB 1761 (2022).

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that a majority of citizens do not want to switch their clocks twice a year. Similar measures have been introduced by neighboring states and also at the Federal level. There are many benefits to the permanent change of Daylight Saving Time, including the opportunity to afford students healthier sleep and school schedules, a reduction in car accidents by providing more daylight for driving, reducing depression, and improving productivity.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Sander; Preston Smith; and the Missouri State Medical Society.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that Permanent Standard Time has been observed for decades in Arizona, Hawaii, all five US territories, and most nations. Most of Mexico restored permanent Standard Time in late 2022, and more American states have permanent Standard Time bills than ever before. Permanent Standard Time

would protect start times for schoolchildren and essential workers (farmers, police, firefighters, commercial drivers, transit operators, healthcare personnel, and teachers) by letting most sleep naturally past sunrise. Its benefits to circadian health would improve immunity, longevity, mood, alertness, and performance in school, sports, and work. It can prevent traffic deaths, lower crime, and reduce chronic illnesses.

Testifying in person against the bill was Jay Pea, Save Standard Time.

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