

HJR 87 -- THE RIGHT TO HUNT AND FISH

SPONSOR: Black

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 6 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 6 to 3.

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment guarantees the right of hunters and anglers in the state to engage in hunting and harvesting wildlife and fishing by legal means, subject to duly authorized powers of the Conservation Commission. The amendment does not prevent the General Assembly from enacting laws that limit the rights of convicted violent felons or those deemed by a court to be a danger as a result of a mental disorder or mental infirmity. The amendment also does not modify property rights or trespass laws.

This bill is the similar to HCS HJR 20 (2023).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this resolution, if passed by the voters, would enshrine the right of Missourians to hunt and fish for future generations. Hunting provides food for many Missourians and also serves the state in predator and disease control.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Black; Missouri Farm Bureau; and Arnie C. Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this language is redundant. The right to hunt and fish is already included in the portion of the Constitution relating to the Conservation Commission. Other states have passed this language because they do not have a constitutionally established body to govern the management of wildlife.

Testifying in person against the bill were Zach Morris, Conservation Federation of Missouri; Tyler Schwartz, Conservation Federation of Missouri; and Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

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.