

HJR 132 -- SEXUAL OFFENSES INVOLVING CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Hausman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Public Policy by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 0.

This resolution proposes an amendment to the Missouri Constitution to provide that the penalty for sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree is life imprisonment without eligibility for probation or parole. For the purposes of this provision, life imprisonment means for the duration of the person's natural life.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the harm done to a child who has been sexually abused will affect that child for his or her entire life; therefore, it is necessary that the consequence for the offender should also last the offender's entire life. Statistics indicate that the occurrence of child trafficking and exploitation has grown, highlighting the urgent need to address this issue.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Hausman; and Stefanie Kaiser, The Child Advocacy Center of Northeast Missouri.

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.