

HCS HB 726 -- FIREARMS

SPONSOR: Durnell

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 726.

Currently, the State preempts the entire field of legislation surrounding firearms. Political subdivisions cannot pass any ordinance relating to the sale, purchase, ownership, or possession of firearms, except to regulate the open carrying of firearms. This bill repeals the exception that allows political subdivisions to regulate the open carrying of firearms.

This bill also adds that any violation of this provision will subject the county, city, town, village, or municipality to a penalty of \$50,000 per occurrence. Any person injured by such a violation will have standing to pursue an action for injunctive relief.

This bill is similar to SB 74 (2025).

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 this bill will maintain consistency with existing State preemption laws. Supporters further say that these provisions will help to ensure that local political subdivisions follow the law by preventing them from passing laws that are more restrictive than what the Missouri Constitution allows. Each Missouri resident should enjoy the same gun rights, regardless of where that individual lives inside the State.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Durnell; Missouri Firearms Coalition; Susan Myers; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the provisions of this bill would undermine local political subdivisions from providing much needed public safety. Opponents further say that Missouri has the eighth highest rate of gun deaths in the nation, and is therefore already a failure when it comes to gun violence prevention. This in turn makes our city streets far less safe than they need to be.

Testifying in person against the bill was Kristin Bowen, Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America.

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.