

SCS SJR 14 -- RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

SPONSOR: Schaefer (Jones, 50)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 4.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment adds the right of a citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his or her family to the current right to keep and bear arms in defense of a citizen's home, person, and property. The amendment repeals the provision specifying that the right must not justify the wearing of a concealed weapon. The amendment reaffirms that the right to keep and bear arms is unalienable and the state must be obligated to uphold these rights and must under no circumstances decline to protect against its infringement.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the amendment adds the right to keep and bear arms in defense of one's family to the rights currently specified in the Missouri Constitution. The amendment provides that these rights are unalienable, which does not mean it's an absolute right, for example as it does not apply as it relates to the commission of a crime.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schaefer; Missourians for Personal Safety; and Ron Calzone, Missouri First.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.