

## HJR 31 -- PARENTAL RIGHTS

SPONSOR: Haahr

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment specifies that parents have a responsibility to ensure that their minor children receive a program of academic instruction which they regularly attend while the child is of an age prescribed by law for school attendance. Parents have a fundamental right to choose to educate their children in public schools, private schools, parochial schools, parish schools, or in-home education, or a combination thereof, to prepare them for future obligations in life.

This amendment would prohibit the state, any political subdivision, agency, entity, or individual acting on behalf of the state or any political subdivision, from dictating through statute, rule, regulation, or other device the content of curriculum to be used by private schools, parochial schools, parish schools, or for in-home instruction or a combination thereof, with the exception of laws which may require instruction in the United States Constitution and the Missouri Constitution.

The amendment would prohibit the state, any political subdivision, agency, entity, or individual acting on behalf of the state or any political subdivision from requiring any private, parochial, or parish school to include in its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice in conflict with the school's religious doctrines or beliefs, nor to exclude from its curriculum any concept, topic, or practice consistent with the school's religious doctrines or beliefs, or from requiring a parent providing in-home education to include in a student's curriculum any concept, topic, or practice that is in conflict with the parent's religious beliefs. The amendment would also prohibit the exclusion from a student's curriculum any concept, topic, or practice consistent with the parent's religious beliefs.