

HCS HB 725 -- WORKERS' COMPENSATION

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill changes the definition of "dependent" in Chapter 287, RSMo, to mean only the claimant's spouse or the claimant's natural, posthumous, or adopted child or children, including any stepchild claimable by the deceased on his or her federal tax return at the time of injury, who are under the age of 18 years or over that age but physically or mentally incapacitated from wage earning. The bill eliminates partial dependents from the definition of "dependent."

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill reduces the age for workers' compensation beneficiaries to close the loophole that currently exists.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGaugh; Associated Industries of Missouri; Sentry Insurance; Missouri Grocers' Association; Missouri Retailer Association; and National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.