

HCS HB 2552 -- ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS

SPONSOR: Corlew

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Small Business by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill provides that any clause in a predispute arbitration agreement requiring the proceedings or results thereof to be confidential, as to claims of sexual harassment, sexual assault, human trafficking, or a criminal offense under Chapter 566, RSMo, or claims of discrimination or harassment based upon any protected status under federal or state law, shall not be enforceable.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will provide protection to victims of sexual harassment and related claims and prevent wrongdoers from hiding illegal conduct behind closed arbitration proceedings.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Corlew and the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say adding coverage for all protected classifications would help protect victims of all forms of discrimination and harassment.

Testifying on the bill was Nimrod Chapel, Jr., National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.