

HCS HB 2173 -- MARRIAGE

SPONSOR: Schnelting

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 4. Motion to "Do Pass" Failed by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 5.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2173.

This bill changes the laws regarding marriage by replacing "marriage licenses" with "contracts of domestic union".

This bill is similar to HB 62 (2017).

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 domestic union has the same legal impact as a marriage. Supporters also testified that the government should not be involved in marriage. This bill is about treating everyone equally.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schnelting; Pastor Terry Roberts, Faith Christian Family Church; Carl Bearden, United For Missouri; and Pastor Tory Tilles.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the government has a significant role in marriage. A marital status is important in many realms, such as taxes, immigration status, social security benefits, divorces, and hospital visitations. Opponents testified that the legislative body cannot change for the federal government recognizes marriage. A domestic union may not be recognized in other states. Opponents of the bill do not want their marriage to be nullified.

Testifying against the bill were Carl Westlund; Jay Polchow; Empower Missouri; American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri; PROMO; Sara Baker; Denise Libberman, Esquire, PROMO; Lisa Westlund; and Wendi Polchow.