

We are hearing about the Second Amendment with the upcoming presidential election. Conceal-carry laws have been in place here in Missouri for a few years now. With only a few weeks left in the legislative session, I am keeping an eye on some bills in the House that could protect and expand legal firearm ownership rights.

<u>House Bill 2034</u> is one of the bills that has my attention. This is sponsored by Representative Brian Munzlinger of Williamstown. His bill would give legal immunity to folks who own firearm ranges and hunting preserves. The immunity would be against criminal and civil actions as a result of the noise from firearms being used in a legal manner in these facilities.

<u>House Bill 1832</u> is sponsored by Representative Shannon Cooper of Clinton. His proposal would reduce the burden for Missourians to qualify for a conceal-carry license. HB 1832 would reduce the six-month residency mandate to a simple residency condition.

<u>House Bill 1765</u> would close any records of permits to obtain concealable firearms kept by sheriffs before August 28th of last year. Any record of permits would stay closed unless a court order would be issued. Representative Mike Parson of Bolivar is a former sheriff, so he knows a lot about dealing with the now repealed permit-to-acquire requirement.

A bill I believe works against rural Missouri is <u>House Bill 2503</u>. This is sponsored by Representative Jeff Roorda of Barnhart. His bill would ban whitetail deer, elk, and upland bird farming operations. Non-traditional livestock farming is something that's done on land in hilly areas. This type of farming allows a landowner the flexibility to make a living for their families. There are dozens of folks in my district who own such facilities. I will work to defeat this bill – or any bill – that would prohibit my constituents from continuing to make a living as they are currently permitted by the state to do so.

Only House Bill 1832 has made it into the Senate. I am watching and waiting to see when or if the others will. I am hopeful my colleagues in the Senate will give Second Amendment rights the time and fairness it deserves. With such a small amount of time left before we adjourn for the year, anything can happen. But you can rest assured firearm, hunting, and private property rights will always be issues I will fight to protect in the General Assembly.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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