

HCS HB 537 -- QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES

SPONSOR: May

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 8 to 3.

This substitute prohibits persons convicted of or who plead guilty to felonies from running for public elected office until pardoned by the Governor.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the substitute is necessary because felons should not be allowed to hold elected office.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dixon.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that voting rights are the cornerstone of the democratic process and stripping felons of the right to vote would disparately impact minorities.

Testifying against the bill were American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri; Missouri Association for Social Welfare; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

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