

HCS HB 66 -- VOTER REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: May (Wallace)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 6 to 4.

This substitute requires persons registering to vote to provide proof of United States citizenship.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of a Cost of \$16,964 in FY 2006, an Income of \$0 in FY 2007, and an Income of \$0 in FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will not place a hardship on voters, and current statutes do not provide election authorities with a means to question someone's citizenship. Only United States citizens should be allowed to vote in elections, because allowing non-citizens to vote opens the electoral process to manipulation by foreign governments. A voter identification card is a "breeder document" from which other false identification documents can be obtained.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wallace; Senator Taylor; and Concerned Women for America of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it will be a huge inconvenience for first-time voters. It only places more hurdles in front of persons who wish to vote and participate in the electoral process. County clerks and election authorities will bear the brunt of voter dissatisfaction. As written, the bill will apply to currently registered voters who move intrastate.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst