

HB 280 -- PHYSICALLY DISABLED VOTERS

SPONSOR: Walsh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, election judges must take, when time permits, voting ballots and equipment to physically disabled voters who are unable to enter polling places. This bill removes the condition "when time permits."

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that no one should be turned away from voting simply because there is not a proper access to the polling place, and this is just one more way to facilitate voting.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walsh; Parquad, Incorporated; Independent Living Center of Southeast Missouri; Missouri Disability Vote Project Leadership Board; and Missouri League of Women Voters.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst