

HB 2158 -- Missouri Voter Protection Act

Sponsor: Cooper (158)

This bill establishes the Missouri Voter Protection Act. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Allows election authorities to use lists prepared in accordance with Section 115.158, RSMo, for record keeping;
- (2) Removes provisions allowing advance voting for general elections and certain court challenges to remove names from registration lists;
- (3) Prohibits payment for voter registration based on the number of voters registered or the number of applications collected or submitted. A violation of this provision will be a class four election offense;
- (4) Requires voter registration solicitors to be 18 years of age or older, a Missouri voter, and to register with the Secretary of State's Office;
- (5) Establishes procedures for a person to file a complaint alleging the violation of the federal Help America Vote Act and specifies the required content of the complaint and the requirements for the investigation and resolution of the complaint;
- (6) Requires voters to establish their identity prior to voting by using their Missouri driver's or nondriver's license or other specified documents;
- (7) Allows the use of provisional ballots in certain circumstances, specifies procedures for determining the accuracy of provisional ballots by election authorities and bipartisan committees, and requires the state to pay the costs of issuing some form of identification to voters;
- (8) Prohibits courts from extending polling hours;
- (9) Establishes specific criteria for determining the intent of the voter with punch card ballots, electronic scan ballots, and write-in ballots;
- (10) Creates the crime of using or threatening the use of violence or property destruction to impede the right to vote, a class one election offense; and
- (11) Creates the crime of providing false information in order

to impede the right to vote, a class one election offense.