

HCS HB 1763 -- PETITION CIRCULATORS

SPONSOR: Jones, 89 (Parson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding petition circulators. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires petition circulators to be citizens of the United States and Missouri residents;
- (2) Prohibits the payment of petition circulators on a per-signature basis;
- (3) Prohibits petition circulators from soliciting or receiving signatures for two or more petitions simultaneously;
- (4) Prohibits the use of regular mail or the Internet to receive signatures;
- (5) Requires petition circulators to supply information to the Office of the Secretary of State verifying their eligibility and requires that petition circulators swear by affidavit that they will comply with the conditions of the substitute;
- (6) Specifies that anyone violating the provisions of the substitute will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor; and
- (7) Specifies that signatures collected by unregistered circulators will not be counted.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill ensures petition initiatives to amend the Missouri Constitution will be conducted by Missouri residents. Recently, Missouri has had an increase in the number of ballot initiatives as a result of out-of-state residents attempting to change the constitution by ballot initiative. The bill also prevents signature collectors from being able to bait and switch people by disallowing the collection of signatures on two petitions simultaneously.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Parson and Deeken; Missouri Restaurant Association; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.