

## HCS HB 2114 -- PAPER BALLOTS AT ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: May (Zimmerman)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the use of paper ballots at elections. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Allows every individual the right to cast a paper ballot in state and federal elections;
- (2) Requires paper ballots to be counted and treated as a regular ballot;
- (3) Requires election authorities to provide a sufficient number of ballots to meet the requirements of the substitute;
- (4) Requires election authorities to post notice of the right to use paper ballots; and
- (5) Requires the state to pay the actual printing costs of paper ballots required by the substitute.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of \$728,342 to \$1,274,598 in FY 2009, \$0 in FY 2010, and \$770,813 to \$1,348,923 in FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will make the rules for voting uniform across the state and give voters the option to use paper ballots. Paper ballots allow for faster voting and are not subject to machine error.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Zimmerman; and Office of the Secretary of State.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill does not pay for ballots in local elections.

Testifying against the bill was Joseph Golki, Director of Elections for St. Louis County.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the state should pay for all election costs. The fiscal note on the bill may be underestimated as it uses a 20 cent per ballot estimate, but ballots may actually cost up to \$1 per ballot.

Testifying on the bill was Darryl Kemp, Association of County

Clerks.