

HCS SB 581 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Griesheimer (Dugger)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 8 to 1.

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

(1) Allows a third or fourth class city council to submit a question to the voters in the form of an advisory referendum. The vote will only be used as a measure of public preference and will not have the force and effect of law;

(2) Revises the oath that an election judge takes prior to being commissioned or beginning his or her duties by requiring the election judge to swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and of Missouri; and

(3) Repeals the provision that requires a political party's emblem to be printed on an election ballot above the party caption.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow voters in third class cities to have the same input as those in fourth class cities by allowing advisory referendums. There is some dispute over whether even fourth class cities may hold advisory referendums, and the bill will clarify that dispute.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Griesheimer.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.