

HB 1136 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass - Not Consent" by the Committee on Rules by a vote of 7 to 2.

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

- (1) Allows a youth participant who assists an election authority to be compensated or remunerated for the time served or costs incurred while assisting with an election (Section 115.104, RSMo);
- (2) Requires the chair of each county political party committee to provide a signed designation form with the names of the designated polling place challengers no later than 10 days before the election. Currently, the form must be submitted no later than four business days before the election (Section 115.105.1);
- (3) Requires an election challenger who has been selected by a political party to attend training if offered and the election authority requires it (Section 115.105.5);
- (4) Repeals obsolete references to election procedures for previous years (Section 115.121);
- (5) Changes the requirement for inspection of voter records and qualifications from a mandatory inspection at least once per year to a discretionary inspection (Section 115.221);
- (6) Updates the description of voting machines to specify the current use of electronic voting methods and repeals obsolete references to ballot cards, ballot sealing, ballot counting, and ballot marking practices (Sections 115.231, 115.253, 115.257 - 115.305, 115.346 - 115.420, and 115.443 - 115.503);
- (7) Updates the description of ballot styles and uses to accommodate current methods of electronic voting while retaining authorization for the use of separate paper ballots for presidential primaries and write-in votes and polling places in general (Sections 115.237 and 115.255);
- (8) Adds municipal taxes to the types of taxes that cannot be delinquent in order for a person to be a qualified candidate for office. Currently, a candidate who does not pay his or her municipal taxes is barred from running for office under Section 115.346. This change makes these provisions consistent (Section

115.342); and

(9) Changes the laws to accommodate the current use of electronic poll books (Section 115.431).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is the result of a bipartisan interim committee effort to update election laws. Many stakeholders were consulted in order to make technical changes.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dugger and Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities.

OPPONENTS: The Office of the Secretary of State expressed opposition to the consent status of the bill, but did not express any opposition to its content.

Testifying against the bill was Office of the Secretary of State.