

HCS HB 1477 -- POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 11 to 0.

The substitute was voted "Do Pass" by the Select Standing Committee on State and Local Government by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill changes the name of the St. Louis County political party committee to a city committee.

Criteria for the membership of congressional, senatorial, and judicial district committees that overlap more than one county or city committee district are specified in the bill. If these districts overlap exactly with a county or city committee, then membership on both committees is identical.

All types of committees must elect a man and a woman as chair and vice-chair and must also elect a man and a woman to be secretary and treasurer. The man and woman chosen for the secretary and treasurer positions are not required to be members of the committee.

The bill includes precinct committee persons in the composition of legislative district committees; requires that the chair and vice-chair of Congressional, senatorial, and judicial district committees be registered to vote in that district unless no one is eligible to serve in which case a waiver can be granted; an individual must not represent more than one precinct, ward, or township on any Congressional, senatorial, or judicial district committee.

The bill specifies meeting dates for forming a committee; county committees will meet at the county courthouse which must be available free of charge and city committees must meet at city hall between the second week after a primary election and the third Saturday after a primary election to choose members; Congressional district committees meet after the fifth week after a primary election, but no later than the sixth Saturday after a primary election, legislative district committees will meet after the third week after a primary election, but no later than the fourth Saturday after a primary election, senatorial district committees meet between the fourth and fifth Saturday after a primary election, senate district members meet on the Saturday after a general election, and judicial district committees will meet no later than the seventh Saturday after a primary election, but not before six weeks after such primary election.

The bill will allow proxy voting if authorized by political party committees for district committees under Section 116.621, RSMo, but otherwise allows proxy voting only for legislative, senatorial, Congressional, and judicial district committee meetings.

The bill removes a reference to disabled persons being disqualified from holding office in a political party committee.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will add a definition of St. Louis city committees to the political party committee statutes, redefine committee membership to include only residents of the requisite committee districts, and set dates for political party committee meetings.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dugger.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.