

HB 1778 with HCA 1 -- PAPER BALLOTS

SPONSOR: Curtman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill requires that all electronic voting systems produce results from paper ballots marked by hand, or in the case of disabled voters who need assistance, from paper ballots marked by a paper ballot marking device designed to assist such voters. Direct-record electronic voting machines shall be phased out upon mechanical failure.

This bill is the same as SB 771 (2016).

HCA #1: This amendment adds a delayed effective date of January 01, 2018, for the requirement to cease replacement of voting machines when they must be retired for mechanical failure.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will provide a secure voting method and enhance the public credibility of elections.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Curtman; Steve Hausladen; Dave Guest; Phillip Michaels; Frieda Keough; and Cynthia Richards.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that Direct Record Electronic machines are reliable and that extensive security methods are in place to protect the right to vote. Many voters prefer to use machines and approximately 65% of St. Louis county voters use machines.

Testifying against the bill was Gary Fuhr, St. Louis County Board Of Elections.