

HB 974 -- ELECTION JUDGES

SPONSOR: Trent

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 5 to 2.

This bill allows major political parties to select election judge candidates under Section 115.081, RSMo, and eliminates a requirement that such judges live in the jurisdiction of an election authority. The bill also specifies methods for selecting judges when major political parties do not provide a list.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill helps alleviate the shortage of election judges in certain districts. Current law requires an equal number of major political party judges at all polling places and, therefore, some areas of the state experience shortages of Democratic election judges and other areas have shortages of Republican election judges.

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

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.