

HB 992 -- ABSENTEE BALLOTS

SPONSOR: Price

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 5 to 1.

This bill allows a properly registered voter to cast an absentee ballot without stating a reason.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will implement current practice by many voters who state that they plan to be out of the election authority's jurisdiction on election day. It will make voting more convenient and decrease the chaos on election day in some jurisdictions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Price; Eric Fey, St. Louis County Board of Elections; Missouri Farm Bureau; Cheryl Adelstein, Jewish Community Relations Council; Chip Hailey, Missouri Council of the Blind; Mid-Missouri Fellowship of Reconciliation; Missouri National Education Association; American Association of Retired Persons; American Civil Liberties Union; and the Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that it could be costly for local election authorities, increase the possibility of election fraud using absentee ballots, and would not increase voter turnout in a very substantial way based on data from other states.

Testifying against the bill was Trish Vincent, Secretary of State.