

HB 1125 -- BALLOT TITLES

SPONSOR: Pietzman

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

This bill requires ballot titles to be written in plain language and that the ballot contain a specified example of the effect of a "yes" or "no" vote on the ballot measure. Examples are limited to 50 words in the same way as ballot titles and may be litigated in the same manner as a ballot title challenge under Chapter 116, RSMo.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help voters better understand the affects of ballot measures.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Pietzman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: The Secretary of State's office says they support efforts to make ballot measures clear and easy to understand. Mr. Berry testified that ballot space is limited and the full text of ballot measures is available at polling places.

Testifying on the bill were Trish Vincent, Secretary Of State and Ron Berry, American Federation of Teachers - Missouri.