

HCB 10 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Shaul (113)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "to Introduce" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 5 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 1.

The bill requires the use of a uniform standard for initiative and referendum petition signature pages. These pages must conform to the requirements of Sections 116.030 and 116.040, RSMo, and will be made available for printing and downloading in an electronic format that is created by the Secretary of State.

This bill requires a \$350 refundable fee, to be deposited into the newly created "Petition Trust Fund," for filing an initiative petition with the office of the Missouri Secretary of State under Section 116.050. The fee is refunded if the petition is authorized to appear on the ballot within the two year period after a summary statement is prepared for the petition under Section 116.334. There is an additional \$25 per page filing fee for initiative petitions that are in excess of 10 pages long.

The Petition Trust Fund shall be used solely by the Secretary of State for refunding the petition fee and any money not refunded will revert to General Revenue.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is the product of a bipartisan consensus which should help alleviate problems with the costs of excessive petition filing and ensure a uniform and efficient initiative petition process.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shaul; Trish Vincent, Secretary of State; United for Missouri; First Rule; and the Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.