

HCS HJR 41 -- LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 11 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 1.

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment would create a four to one ratio of House districts to Senate districts with equal population districts and three House districts drawn within each Senate district. The existing criteria for redistricting and the number of Senators will remain unchanged.

The amendment also changes term limit requirements for members of the General Assembly so that beginning December 3, 2020, individuals may serve 12 years in any proportion between the Houses of the General Assembly. Service prior to this effective date will count for purposes of the term limits.

The redistricting portions of the bill will go into effect January 1, 2030.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the resolution will simplify the electoral process for voters and allow Representatives to work with a single Senator on representation of their area. It will save money by reducing the number of Representatives. Missouri currently has the seventh largest legislature even though it is far smaller in population. It also is endorsed as a fair compromise which will allow for longer service in the House or Senate, but keep a fairly short overall term limit in place.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Fitzwater.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.