

HB 1631 -- CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

SPONSOR: Deaton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Downsizing State Government by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill creates an eight member "Joint Committee on the Missouri Constitutional Convention" which shall consider whether convening a convention under Article XII, Section 3(a) of the Constitution of Missouri is in the best interest of the state. The President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint four members with two members appointed from the majority and minority party in each house. Provisions for staff and committee expenses are specified in the bill and it is required to submit a report on or before December 31, 2021. The committee is dissolved following submission of the report.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the purpose of the bill is to gather information and set up procedures for the convention, and prepare a report on its findings.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Deaton.

OPPONENTS: Opponents say that the question is for the voters; elected officials should stay out of it.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.

OTHERS: There were no other persons testifying on the bill.