

SB 231 -- ARTICLE V COMMISSIONERS

SPONSOR: Burlison (Trent)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill creates procedures for the appointment of commissioners to a convention called under Article V of the U.S. Constitution. Such commissioners shall be appointed by the General Assembly and the bill creates a Joint Legislative Committee to submit names to the General Assembly to be considered for appointment. Membership of the Committee shall be comprised of five members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem, with three members from the majority and two members for the minority, and five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, with three members form the majority and two members from the minority. The House of Representatives and the Senate shall select a commissioner and alternate commissioner from each Congressional district from the names submitted by the Joint Legislative Committee. The Joint Legislative Committee shall also submit "Recommended Commissioner Instructions" to the General Assembly for its approval.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill creates a process that Missouri currently does not have in case a convention is called. Structure will be necessary and involves representation from the entire state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Burlison; Arnie Dienoff; Keith Carmichael; Brett Sterley, Convention of States Action.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill does not provide for a process for accountability.

Testifying against the bill was the Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say other states could possibly create proportional voting while Missouri is limiting itself to one vote.

Testifying on the bill was Ron Calzone.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.