

HCS HJR 131 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Shaul

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 131.

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment clarifies that only citizens of the United States are eligible to vote. The resolution requires that voters cast a single vote for each office or issue. Additionally, it requires that the plurality winner of any political party primary election be the only candidate for that political party on the ballot at the General Election.

The resolution also requires the use of paper ballots and voting records which are preserved for use in any election audit. Voting machines will be tested and certified as secure under federal standards prior to each election.

The resolution has ballot language submitted by the General Assembly under Chapter 116, RSMo.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the resolution clarifies that only United States citizens may vote in Missouri elections and also enacts the current practice that requires a single vote for each candidate or issue and a plurality vote winner rule for political party primary elections. An instant runoff system would drastically change the election system in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shaul; Tracey Carlton; Byron Keelin, Freedom Principle STL; Kathy Forck; Lynne Rodgers; Mary Ellen Hoffman; Paula Juelich; Robert Patricia Rains; Terence Conway; Arnie C. Ac Dienoff; Scott R. Clark, and the Missouri Secretary of State.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill provided written testimony.

Testifying against the bill were Cheryl Hibbeler; Dawn Banks; Denis

Edward Rigdon; Denise Lieberman, Missouri Voter Protection Coalition; Don Crozier; Missouri AFL-CIO; Mindy Sue McIntosh; Dorothy L. McClendon; Dorothy L. McClendon, Black Women Voters' Legacy; George Lenard; Marla J Marantz; and Melissa Vatterott, Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it gives voters an alternative to the instant runoff system which could appear on the ballot this year.

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.