

HB 1706 -- DEFINITIONS OF TERMS IN THE CONSTITUTION

SPONSOR: Christensen

This bill provides for the creation of a glossary of terms used in the Missouri Constitution. The Secretary of State must accept proposals of terms to include in the glossary from members of the public and the General Assembly from September 1st to December 31st of every odd-numbered year. Proposals must include the term to be defined, citations to the use of the term throughout the constitution, and a proposed definition that is concise and neutral.

The bill requires the Secretary to review all proposals and select a list of proposed definitions to be placed on the general election ballot. The Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, must ensure all proposed definitions are concise, neutral, and accurate, and can rewrite proposed definitions to meet those requirements.

This bill provides that terms receiving a simple majority of votes in favor of the proposed definition will be added to the constitutional glossary, and terms can be altered or removed from the glossary by the same process. The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining and publishing the constitutional glossary in print and on the Secretary's website.