

HCS HB 387 -- PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

SPONSOR: May (Pearce)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 7 to 5.

This substitute eliminates the presidential primary in Missouri.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Savings to General Revenue Fund of \$3,712,000 in FY 2004, \$0 in FY 2005, and \$0 in FY 2006.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will save the state a lot of money because voter turnout is low at presidential primaries while the cost of conducting the election is very high.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pearce; Gilbert Powers, Johnson County Clerk; Mary Berry, DeKalb County Clerk; and Peggy McGaugh, Carroll County Clerk.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that holding the presidential primary will bring money and national media attention to the state and allow students to participate fully in the voting process.

Testifying against the bill was Associated Students of the University of Missouri.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst