

HCS HB 900 -- VOTER REGISTRATION IDENTIFICATION

SPONSOR: May (Taylor)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 6 to 5.

This substitute requires persons registering to vote to provide proof of United States citizenship.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that current statutes do not provide election authorities with a means to question someone's citizenship. Only United States citizens should be allowed to vote in elections, because allowing non-citizens to vote opens the electoral process to manipulation by foreign governments. A voter identification card is a "breeder document" from which other false identification documents can be obtained.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Taylor; Stone County Clerk; Mid-America Immigration Reform Coalition; Carlos M. Rodriguez; and Missouri Catholic Conference.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it only places more hurdles in front of persons who wish to vote and participate in the electoral process.

Testifying against the bill was American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst