

HB 1310 -- ELECTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

SPONSOR: Hoskins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Urban Education Reform by a vote of 7 to 0.

Beginning January 1, 2009, this bill requires independent candidates to file petitions for nomination for placement on official ballots in general elections and the declaration of candidacy forms for primary elections in the same manner as all other candidates.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that it is only fair that independent candidates meet the same filing deadlines as candidates from political parties.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Hoskins.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that there is a need for political reform including opening the process to increase citizen involvement and participation. The bill will stifle potential independent candidates resulting in many major party candidates running unopposed.

Testifying against the bill was Barbara Woodruff, Show Me Independents.