

HB 1517 -- ANDREW JACKSON VOTE RESTORATION ACT

SPONSOR: Cox

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 7 to 1.

Currently, nonpartisan elections in political subdivisions and districts, except for municipalities, may be canceled if the number of candidates filing for a position is equal to the number of positions available. This bill establishes the Andrew Jackson Vote Restoration Act which repeals these provisions and requires elections to always be held.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will prevent candidates from being discouraged from running for election by the argument that an uncontested election will save money, allow voters to be more aware of who holds elected office, and allow write-in candidates to run for office. Holding an election is important so that voters can show approval or disapproval of a candidate even if the election is uncontested.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cox; Missouri Press Association; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.