

HCS HB 1059 -- RECOUNT OF VOTES

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes when a candidate has the right to a recount of the votes from a standard requiring the candidate's defeat by less than 1% of the votes cast to a candidate's defeat by less than one-half of 1% of the votes cast. The right to a recount of the votes cast for an office or on a ballot question will apply to any election in which the candidate or the ballot question was defeated by two votes or less.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will save money by requiring fewer recounts. Existing ballot tabulation methods leave very little room for error so that recounts never change the result by an amount close to the limitations of the bill. Many other states have adopted similar or even more restrictive automatic recount laws.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dugger; and Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.