

HCS SS#2 SJR 48 -- APPORTIONMENT COMMISSIONS

SPONSOR: Dixon (Smith, 150)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Special Standing Committee on the Judicial Process by a vote of 9 to 3.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment changes the laws regarding the House of Representatives and Senate reapportionment commissions and the judicial commission charged with reapportionment if the House and Senate commissions fail to produce a reapportionment map. Current state employees and officials are banned from service on the commissions, and any member of a commission is banned from holding office in the General Assembly for six years following his or her appointment to the commission by the Governor instead of for four years following the date of the filing by the commission of its final statement of apportionment. The House of Representatives and Senate commissions must provide reasons for the numbers and the boundaries of the districts in writing and file the document with the final statement submitted to the Secretary of State.

When considering nominations to the senatorial commission submitted to the Governor, each state committee must give due consideration to the representation of the various geographical areas of the state.

Membership on the judicial commission assigned to produce a map if a House or Senate commission fails is restricted so that no more than two members of any district of the court of appeals may be appointed to the commission.

The House, Senate, and judicial commissions will be subject to the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law.

The resolution repeals provisions allowing districts to be altered from time to time as required by public convenience and allows redistricting only upon a decennial census or if a reapportionment map has been invalidated by a court.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 or a cost of More than \$7,000,000 in FY 2013, an income of \$0 in FY 2014, and an income of \$0 in FY 2015. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the changes will benefit the commission process by making it more transparent and requiring legitimate reasons for the drawing of districts.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Dixon; and Missouri Press Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.