

HB 199 -- Obsolete Election Statutes

Sponsor: Dugger

This bill repeals obsolete statutes regarding elections. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Repeals the provisions regarding the required type and size of specified information and the layout of a ballot to be used with an electronic voting system (Section 115.237, RSMo);
- (2) Repeals the provision that prohibits a voting machine from being used unless it permits each voter at a presidential election to vote by the use of a single lever for the candidates of one party or group of petitioners for President, Vice President, and their presidential electors (Section 115.249);
- (3) Repeals the provision that requires a voting machine to be placed so that the ballot labels can be plainly seen by the election judges when not in use by voters (Section 115.259);
- (4) Repeals the provision requiring that the words "Official Absentee Ballot" appear at the top of an absentee ballot (Section 115.281);
- (5) Repeals the provision requiring that any absentee ballot cast by a voter who has died prior to the opening of the polls on election day be rejected upon the showing of evidence of death (Section 115.293);
- (6) Changes the composition of a team to count absentee ballot from four election judges consisting of two from each political party to an equal number of judges from each major political party (Section 115.299);
- (7) Repeals the provision prohibiting absentee ballots from being counted by the same persons as those who removed them from their envelopes (Section 115.300);
- (8) Repeals the provision allowing the use of pasters to add or delete names on printed ballots (Section 115.383);
- (9) Repeals the provision requiring each polling place to have a model of a marking device or a portion of the face of a voting machine if marking devices or voting machines are used (Section 115.417);
- (10) Removes ballot labels from the list of items that the election authority must deliver to each polling place before the

poll opens (Section 115.419);

(11) Changes when election judges must open the ballot box and show to all present that it is empty from after the time fixed by law for the opening of the polls but before the voting begins to before the voting begins (Section 115.423);

(12) Removes ballot cards from the type of ballots that election judges must initial after the voter's identification certificate has been initialed (Section 115.433);

(13) Removes sealing the envelope containing a ballot from the list of responsibilities that election judges must perform when any physically disabled voter is unable to enter the polling place (Section 115.436);

(14) Repeals the provision that allows a voter to cross out a name which appears on the ballot and write the name of the person for whom he wishes to vote above or below the crossed-out name and place a cross X mark in the square directly to the left of the crossed-out name but allows a voter to write the name of the person for whom he or she wishes to vote on the write-in line if the line appears on the ballot and place a valid mark immediately beside the candidate's name. The bill repeals the provisions allowing the use of a sticker or other item containing a write-in candidate's name in lieu of a handwritten name (Sections 115.439, 115.443, 115.453, and 115.455);

(15) Repeals the provision requiring the ballot to be strung on a wire or string in the order read after all of the proper votes on a ballot have been counted (Section 115.449);

(16) Repeals the provisions regarding the responsibility of the election authority in counting ballots cast using punch card voting systems and repeals the provision allowing a voter to use write-in stickers on ballots (Section 115.456);

(17) Extends the time period that specified election ballot, records, and materials must be kept from 12 months to 22 months (Section 115.493);

(18) Repeals the provisions regarding the interference or discontinuance of a person's valid registration (Section 115.177);

(19) Repeals the provisions requiring each election authority to have the voting records inspected at least once each year and allowing the authority to investigate the qualifications of any person who has not voted or transferred his or her registration within the last four years (Section 115.221);

(20) Repeals the provisions regarding the ballot information on a ballot card or on a marking device or on a write-in ballot in a polling place using an electronic voting system (Section 115.231);

(21) Repeals the provisions regarding the operation, maintenance, and use of voting machines (Sections 115.251, 115.253, 115.255, 115.257, 115.261, 115.263, 115.483, 115.485, 115.487, 115.489, 115.495, and 115.503);

(22) Repeals the provisions regarding the use of ballot cards as absentee ballots (115.301);

(23) Repeals the provisions that prohibits the use of butterfly ballots by an election authority operating a voting system that uses ballot cards (Section 115.420);

(24) Repeals the provision requiring two election judges from different political parties to verify the voter's signature on the precinct register which constitutes the poll list (Section 115.431);

(25) Repeals certain provisions regarding the storage, sorting, and transportation of ballot cards and write-in votes (Section 115.475); and

(26) Repeals the provisions requiring the use of automatic tabulating equipment to count ballot cards (Sections 115.477 and 115.479).