

HB 1566 -- TIE VOTES IN PRIMARY ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Muntzel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 9 to 1.

In the event that there is a tie vote between two candidates in a primary election for a county office and the candidates do not agree upon a settlement to determine a winner for the primary election, this bill allows each candidate to place his or her name on the general election ballot without a political party designation.

The provisions of the bill will apply only in the case of an uncontested general election in which the candidates who tie in a primary election are the only candidates eligible to run for the county office in the general election because all other candidates have not met the filing requirements for the office.

If a general election is contested as a result of these provisions, any tie vote in a political party primary must be resolved under Section 115.515, RSMo, prior to the general election.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will save money in the case of tie votes in county primaries by allowing resolution at the general election if it is uncontested.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Munzel.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.