

SCS SB 892 -- PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

SPONSOR: Kraus (Dugger)

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

This bill changes the presidential primary date from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February to the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will accommodate election authorities in the best manner. Although the April election might cost less, it is problematic to combine partisan and non-partisan ballots at the same election. If the presidential primary is not moved, then Missouri political parties will likely lose representation at national conventions to select presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Kraus.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that April might be much more cost effective and could prevent security problems involving the use of voting machines in close proximity in time. There may be time to conduct an extensive cost versus benefit analysis prior to next presidential primary election.

Testifying on the bill was the Office of the Missouri Secretary of State.