

HCS#2 for HB 63 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill reenacts a portion of Section 115.305, RSMo, which was repealed in 2014 and exempts a candidate for a township, city, town, and village office from regulations under this chapter.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will potentially prevent problems with fourth class cities not being able to hold primary elections prior to April or being required to hold partisan primary elections on short notice and could prevent litigation. The bill reenacts a statute inadvertently repealed last year with the intent of creating equity in candidate eligibility across different classifications of cities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dugger, Missouri Municipal League; St. Louis County Municipal League; and Missouri Association of County Clerks.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it is possible that the existing description of St. Louis County violates Article III, Section 40 of the Constitution of Missouri relating to local or special laws. The General Assembly should attempt to conform to the Constitution if possible.

Testifying on the bill was Ron Calzone, Missouri First think tank.