

HB 1016 -- ELECTION PROCEDURES

SPONSOR: English

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, election challenges may remain at polling places only during voting hours. This bill allows an election challenger to remain at a polling place until all procedures involving the counting, sealing, and transportation of ballots or election equipment has occurred and all other duties and procedures required under Sections 115.447 to 115.491, RSMo, are completed. Challengers will continue to be allowed at each place where absentee ballots are counted and to observe the counting of these ballots.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow transparency in the entire election process and prevent challengers and watchers from being asked to leave when votes remain uncounted and voters are still in line to vote. It should ease public concern about election fraud.

Testifying for the bill were Representative English; Frieda Keough; Dave Guest; Lisa Pannett; and Laura Hausladen.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.