

HB 1157 -- POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES

SPONSOR: Dogan

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

This bill repeals the provision prohibiting a person who files as a party candidate for nomination or election to an office from filing as another party's candidate or as an independent candidate for nomination or election to the office for the same term unless he or she withdraws the previous filing. The bill allows a person who files as a party candidate for nomination or election to an office to file as a primary candidate for more than one political party and to appear on the general election ballot as a candidate for more than one political party if the political party allows fusion tickets by its bylaws or other rules that are not inconsistent with specified provisions of law. The person cannot file as an independent candidate unless the person has withdrawn all political party filings for the office.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that bill will allow political parties to decide if they will accept fusion tickets. Fusion tickets could incentivize the formation of more political parties and better allow voter to represent their interests.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dogan; Gary Wiegert, St. Louis Tea Party.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it may be necessary to specify a new ballot style and provide for additional costs to the election authorities.

Testifying on the bill was Mark J Rhoads.