

HB 351 -- Election Judges

Sponsor: McNeil

This bill allows an election authority to randomly select individuals from a cross-section of voter registrations to serve as election judges if there is a shortage of election judges in the authority's jurisdiction. Service as an election judge must be voluntary, and no citizen can be excluded from appointment or selection on the basis of race, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. An election judge will serve no longer than one year and will not be required to serve in more than four elections. Notification of the offer to serve as an election judge will be given in a letter by first-class mail at least 15 days before an individual is required to appear for the election. An individual appointed or randomly selected as an election judge must report to the election authority's office to complete any necessary informational forms and to receive training at the time indicated in the notification letter.

An employer may not subject any employee who is serving as an election judge to any adverse action as specified in the bill but may reduce the employee's pay for work hours missed. No employee can be required to use annual, vacation, personal, or sick leave for time spent training or serving as an election judge. Any person appointed as a qualified temporary election judge under Section 115.095, RSMo, is not required to give the seven-day notice to an employer that he or she will be absent from work to serve as an election judge.