

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 692

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ENTLICHER.

1184H.02I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.603, 115.607, 115.609, 115.611, 115.613, 115.615, 115.617, 115.619, and 115.621, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof eight new sections relating to committees of political parties.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 115.603, 115.607, 115.609, 115.611, 115.613, 115.615, 115.617, 2 115.619, and 115.621, RSMo, are repealed and eight new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be 3 known as sections 115.603, 115.607, 115.609, 115.611, 115.613, 115.617, 115.619, and 115.621, 4 to read as follows:

115.603. Each established political party shall have a state committee, a congressional 2 district committee for each congressional district in the state, a judicial district committee for 3 each circuit judge district in the state not subject to the provisions of article V, section 25 of the 4 state constitution, a senatorial district committee for each senatorial district in the state, a 5 legislative district committee for each legislative district in the state and a county committee for 6 each county in the state, **except any city not within a county which shall have a city** 7 **committee in lieu of a county committee.**

115.607. 1. No person shall be elected or shall serve as a member of a county **or city** 2 committee who is not, for one year next before the person's election, both a registered voter of 3 and a resident of the county **or city not within a county** and the committee district from which 4 the person is elected if such district shall have been so long established, and if not, then of the 5 district or districts from which the same shall have been taken. Except as provided in 6 subsections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this section, the membership of a county **or city** committee of

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

7 each established political party shall consist of a man and a woman elected from each township
8 or ward in the county **or city not within a county**.

9 2. In each county of the first classification containing the major portion of a city which
10 has over three hundred thousand inhabitants, two members of the committee, a man and a
11 woman, shall be elected from each ward in the city. Any township entirely contained in the city
12 shall have no additional representation on the county committee. The election authority for the
13 county shall, not later than six months after the decennial census has been reported to the
14 President of the United States, divide the most populous township outside the city into eight
15 subdistricts of contiguous and compact territory and as nearly equal in population as practicable.
16 The subdistricts shall be numbered from one upward consecutively, which numbers shall, insofar
17 as practicable, be retained upon reapportionment. Two members of the county committee, a man
18 and a woman, shall be elected from each such subdistrict. Six members of the committee, three
19 men and three women, shall be elected from the second and third most populous townships
20 outside the city. Four members of the committee, two men and two women, shall be elected
21 from the other townships outside the city.

22 3. In any city which has over three hundred thousand inhabitants, the major portion of
23 which is located in a county with a charter form of government, for the portion of the city located
24 within such county and notwithstanding section 82.110, it shall be the duty of the election
25 authority, not later than six months after the decennial census has been reported to the President
26 of the United States, to divide such cities into not less than twenty-four nor more than
27 twenty-five wards after each decennial census. Wards shall be so divided that the number of
28 inhabitants in any ward shall not exceed any other ward of the city and within the same county,
29 by more than five percent, measured by the number of the inhabitants determined at the
30 preceding decennial census.

31 4. In each county of the first classification containing a portion, but not the major
32 portion, of a city which has over three hundred thousand inhabitants, ten members of the
33 committee, five men and five women, shall be elected from the district of each state
34 representative wholly contained in the county in the following manner: within six months after
35 each legislative reapportionment, the election authority shall divide each legislative district
36 wholly contained in the county into five committee districts of contiguous territory as compact
37 and as nearly equal in population as may be; two members of the committee, a man and a
38 woman, shall be elected from each committee district. The election authority shall divide the
39 area of the county located within legislative districts not wholly contained in the county into
40 similar committee districts; two members of the committee, a man and a woman, shall be elected
41 from each committee district.

42 5. In each city not situated in a county, two members of the committee, a man and a
43 woman, shall be elected from each ward.

44 6. In all counties with a charter form of government and a population of over nine
45 hundred thousand inhabitants, the county committee persons shall be elected from each
46 township. Within ninety days after August 28, 2002, and within six months after each decennial
47 census has been reported to the President of the United States, the election authority shall divide
48 the county into twenty-eight compact and contiguous townships containing populations as nearly
49 equal in population to each other as is practical.

50 7. If any election authority has failed to adopt a reapportionment plan by the deadline set
51 forth in this section, the county commission, sitting as a reapportionment commission, shall
52 within sixty days after the deadline, adopt a reapportionment plan. Changes of township, ward,
53 or precinct lines shall not affect the terms of office of incumbent party committee members
54 elected from districts as constituted at the time of their election.

 115.609. In each city not situated in a county and in each county [which has over nine
2 hundred thousand inhabitants, all members of the county committee shall be elected at the
3 primary election immediately preceding each gubernatorial election and shall hold office until
4 their successors are elected and qualified. In each other county], all members of the county **or**
5 **city** committee shall be elected at each primary election and shall hold office until their
6 successors are elected and qualified.

 115.611. 1. Except as provided in subsection 4 of section 115.613, any registered voter
2 of the county **or a city not within a county** may have such voter's name printed on the primary
3 ballot of such voter's party as a candidate for county **or city** committeeman or committeewoman
4 by filing a declaration of candidacy in the office of the county **or city** election authority and by
5 paying any filing fee required by subsection 2 of this section.

6 2. Before filing such candidate's declaration of candidacy, candidates for county **or city**
7 committeeman or county **or city** committeewoman shall pay to the treasurer of such candidate's
8 party's county **or city** committee, or submit to the county **or city** election authority to be
9 forwarded to the treasurer of such candidate's party's committee, a certain sum of money, as
10 follows:

11 (1) One hundred dollars if such candidate is a candidate for county committeeman or
12 committeewoman in any county **or city** which has or hereafter has over nine hundred thousand
13 inhabitants or in any city not situated in a county;

14 (2) Twenty-five dollars if such candidate is a candidate for county committeeman or
15 committeewoman in any county of the first class containing the major portion of a city which has
16 over three hundred thousand inhabitants;

17 (3) Except as provided in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, no candidate for
18 county committeeman or committeewoman shall be required to pay a filing fee.

19 3. Any person who cannot pay the fee to file as a candidate for county **or city**
20 committeeman or committeewoman may have the fee waived by filing a declaration of inability
21 to pay and a petition with the official with whom such candidate files such candidate's
22 declaration of candidacy. The provisions of section 115.357 shall apply to all such declarations
23 and petitions.

24 4. No person's name shall be printed on any official primary ballot as a candidate for
25 county **or city** committeeman or committeewoman unless the person has filed a declaration of
26 candidacy with the proper election authority not later than 5:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday in
27 March immediately preceding the primary election.

115.613. 1. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, the qualified man and
2 woman receiving the highest number of votes from each committee district for committeeman
3 and committeewoman of a party shall be members of the county **or city** committee of the party.

4 2. If two or more qualified persons receive an equal number of votes for county **or city**
5 committeeman or committeewoman of a party and a higher number of votes than any other
6 qualified person from the party, a vacancy shall exist on the county **or city** committee which
7 shall be filled by a majority of the committee in the manner provided in section 115.617.

8 3. If no qualified person is elected county **or city** committeeman or committeewoman
9 from a committee district for a party, a vacancy shall exist on the county **or city** committee
10 which shall be filled by a majority of the committee in the manner provided in section 115.617.

11 4. The provisions of this subsection shall apply only in any county **or city** where no
12 filing fee is required for filing a declaration of candidacy for committeeman or committeewoman
13 in a committee district. If only one qualified candidate has filed a declaration of candidacy for
14 committeeman or committeewoman in a committee district for a party prior to the deadline
15 established [by law] **in this chapter**, no election shall be held for committeeman or
16 committeewoman in the committee district for that party and the election authority shall certify
17 the qualified candidate in the same manner and at the same time as candidates elected pursuant
18 to subsection 1 of this section are certified. If no qualified candidate files for committeeman or
19 committeewoman in a committee district for a party, no election shall be held and a vacancy shall
20 exist on the county committee which shall be filled by a majority of the committee in the manner
21 provided in section 115.617.

115.617. Whenever a member of any county **or city** committee dies, becomes disabled,
2 resigns, or ceases to be a registered voter of or a resident of the county **or a city not within a**
3 **county** or the committee district from which he is elected, a vacancy shall exist on the
4 committee. A majority of the committee shall elect another person to fill the vacancy who, for

5 one year next before his election, shall have been both a registered voter of and a resident of the
6 county **or city** and the committee district. The person selected to fill the vacancy shall serve the
7 remainder of the vacated term.

115.619. 1. [The membership of] A legislative district committee shall consist of [all
2 county committee members within] **the ward or township committeeman and**
3 **committeewoman from such wards or townships included in whole or in part of** the
4 legislative district[, except as provided in subsections 4 and 5 of this section. In all counties of
5 this state which are wholly contained within a legislative district, or in which there are two or
6 more whole legislative districts, or one whole legislative district and part of another legislative
7 district, or parts of two or more legislative districts, there shall be elected from the membership
8 of each legislative district committee a chairman and a vice chairman, one of whom shall be a
9 woman and one of whom shall be a man, and each legislative district at the same time shall elect
10 a secretary and a treasurer, one of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man, but
11 who may or may not be members of the legislative district committee]. Party state committees
12 may provide for voting by proxy and for weighted or fractional voting.

13 2. [If a legislative district and a county are coextensive, the chairman, vice chairman,
14 secretary and treasurer of the county committee shall be the chairman, vice chairman, secretary
15 and treasurer of the legislative committee.

16 3. Except as provided in subsections 4 and 5 of this section,] The congressional,
17 senatorial or judicial district committee **of a district which is wholly composed of two or more**
18 **whole counties or one or more whole counties and a whole city not within a county** shall
19 consist of the [chairman] **chair** and vice [chairman] **chair** of each of the legislative districts
20 **included in whole or in part** in the congressional, senatorial, or judicial [districts] **district** and
21 the [chairman] **chair** and vice [chairman] **chair** of each of the county **or city** committees within
22 the [districts] **district**. Party state committees may provide for voting by proxy and may provide
23 for weighted or fractional voting.

24 [4.] 3. The congressional, senatorial or judicial district committee of a district
25 [coextensive with one county shall be the county committee.

26 5.] **which is composed of one or more whole counties or a whole city not within a**
27 **county and a part of one or more counties or part of a city not within a county shall consist**
28 **of the chair and vice chair of each of the county or city committees, the chair and vice chair**
29 **of each of the legislative districts included in whole or in part in the whole counties or**
30 **whole cities not within a county, and the ward or township committeeman and**
31 **committeewoman from such wards or townships included in whole or in part in such part**
32 **of a county or city not within a county not wholly contained within the congressional,**

33 senatorial, or judicial district. Party state committees may provide for voting by proxy and
34 may provide for weighted or fractional voting.

35 **4. The congressional, senatorial, or judicial district committee of a district which**
36 **is wholly composed of part of two or more counties or part of one or more counties and**
37 **part of a city not within a county shall consist of the ward or township committeeman and**
38 **committeewoman from such wards or townships included in whole or in part of the**
39 **congressional, senatorial, or judicial district and the chair and vice chair of each of the**
40 **county or city committees within the district. Party state committees may provide for**
41 **voting by proxy and may provide for weighted or fractional voting.**

42 **5. The congressional, senatorial or judicial district committee of a district which is**
43 **wholly composed [in whole or in part] of a part of a city not within a county or part of a county**
44 **shall consist of the ward or township committeemen and committeewomen from such wards or**
45 **townships included in whole or in part [in such part of a city or part of a county forming the**
46 **whole or a part] of such district. Party state committees may provide for voting by proxy and**
47 **may provide for weighted or fractional voting.**

48 **6. The legislative, congressional, senatorial, or judicial district committee of a**
49 **district coextensive with one county or city not within a county shall be the county or city**
50 **committee. The chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the county or city committee**
51 **shall be the chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer of the legislative, congressional,**
52 **senatorial, or judicial committee.**

115.621. 1. The members of each county committee shall meet at the county seat
2 on the first Saturday after each primary election. In each city not within a county, the city
3 committee shall meet on the same day at the city hall. In all counties of the first, second,
4 and third classification, the county courthouse shall be made available for such meetings
5 and any other county political party meeting at no charge to the party committees. In all
6 cities not within a county, the city hall shall be made available for such meetings and any
7 other city political party meeting at no charge to the party committees. At the meeting,
8 each committee shall organize by electing two of its members, a man and a woman, as chair
9 and vice chair, a man and a woman who may or may not be members of the committee as
10 secretary and treasurer.

11 **2. The members of each congressional district committee shall meet at some place within**
12 **the district, to be designated by the current chair of the committee, on the [last Tuesday in**
13 **August] third Saturday after each primary election. The county courthouse in counties of the**
14 **first, second and third classification in which the meeting is to take place, as designated by the**
15 **chair, shall be made available for such meeting and any other congressional district political**
16 **party committee meeting at no charge to the committee. At the meeting, the committee shall**

17 organize by electing one of its members as chair and one of its members as vice chair, one of
18 whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man, and a secretary and a treasurer, one
19 of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man, who may or may not be members
20 of the committee.

21 [2.] 3. The members of each legislative district committee shall meet at some place
22 within the legislative district or within one of the counties in which the legislative district exists,
23 to be designated by the current chair of the committee, on the [third Wednesday] **second**
24 **Saturday** after each [August] primary election. The county courthouse in counties of the first,
25 second and third classification in which the meeting is to take place, as designated by the chair,
26 shall be made available for such meeting and any other legislative district political party
27 committee meeting at no charge to the committee. At the meeting, the committee shall organize
28 [pursuant to subsection 1 of section 115.619] **by electing two of its members, a man and a**
29 **woman, as chair and vice chair, and a man and a woman who may or may not be members**
30 **of the committee as secretary and treasurer.**

31 [3.] 4. The members of each senatorial district committee shall meet at some place
32 within the district, to be designated by the current chair of the committee, if there is one, and if
33 not, by the chair of the congressional district in which the senatorial district is principally
34 located, on the [third] **fourth** Saturday after each [August] primary election. The county
35 courthouse in counties of the first, second and third classification in which the meeting is to take
36 place, as so designated pursuant to this subsection, shall be made available for such meeting and
37 any other senatorial district political party committee meeting at no charge to the committee. At
38 the meeting, the committee shall organize by electing one of its members as chair and one of its
39 members as vice chair, one of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man, and a
40 secretary and a treasurer, one of whom shall be a woman and one of whom shall be a man, who
41 may or may not be members of the committee.

42 5. The members of each senatorial district shall also meet at some place within the
43 district, to be designated by the current chair of the committee, if there is one, and if not, by the
44 chair of the congressional district in which the senatorial district is principally located, on the
45 Saturday after [the third Tuesday in November after] each general election. At the meeting, the
46 committee shall proceed to elect two registered voters of the district, one man and one woman,
47 as members of the party's state committee.

48 [4.] 6. The members of each judicial district may meet at some place within the judicial
49 district or within one of the counties in which the judicial district exists, to be designated by the
50 current chair of the committee or the chair of the congressional district committee, on the [first
51 Tuesday in September] **fifth Saturday** after each primary election, or at another time designated
52 by the chairmen of the committees. The county courthouse in counties of the first, second and

53 third classification in which the meeting is to take place, as so designated pursuant to this
54 subsection, shall be made available for such meeting and any other judicial district political party
55 committee meeting at no charge to the committee. At the meeting, the committee shall organize
56 [pursuant to subsection 1 of section 115.619] **by electing two of its members, a man and a**
57 **woman, as chair and vice chair, and a man and a woman who may or may not be members**
58 **of the committee as secretary and treasurer.**

2 [115.615. In years when a primary election is held pursuant to subsection
3 2 of section 115.121, each county committee shall meet at the county seat on the
4 third Tuesday of August. In each city not situated in a county, the city committee
5 shall meet on the same day at such place within the city as the chair of the current
6 city committee may designate. In all counties of the first, second and third
7 classification the county courthouse shall be made available for such meetings
8 and any other county political party meeting at no charge to the party committees.
9 At the meeting, each committee shall organize by electing one of its members as
10 chair and one of its members as vice chair, a man and a woman, and a secretary
11 and a treasurer, a man and a woman, who may or may not be members of the
12 committee. The county chair and vice chair so elected shall by virtue thereof
13 become members of the party congressional, senatorial and judicial committees
of the district of which their county is a part.]

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