

HB 341 -- FILING OF ETHICS REPORTS

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 Local Government by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill requires a candidate for specified elective offices who must file financial disclosure reports under Section 130.026, RSMo, to file the reports with the Missouri Ethics Commission in an electronic format as prescribed by the commission. Currently, the candidates are required to file the reports with the commission and/or the local election authority.

The bill will become effective on January 1, 2016.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill ensures an efficient electronic filing system and prevents duplication of filing with both a local election authority and the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dugger and Peggy Kenney, Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that electronic filing has proven very successful, and the bill could help those seeking information on local candidate filings.

Testifying on the bill were Betsy Byers and James Klahr, Missouri Ethics Commission.