

HJR 1 -- VOTER IDENTIFICATION

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 9 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on State and Local Government by a vote of 9 to 2.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment specifies that a person seeking to vote in a public election may be required by general law to identify himself or herself and verify his or her qualifications as a United States citizen and a Missouri resident by providing election officials with a form of identification that may include requiring valid government-issued photo identification. Exceptions to the identification requirement may also be provided for by general law.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the amendment will give the people the chance to decide whether to implement photographic identification requirements in order to vote.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dugger; Missouri Alliance for Freedom; and Missouri Federation of Animal Owners.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that Missouri should retain its strong state constitutional right to vote which is stronger than the corresponding federal right and which is an important indication of Missouri's emphasis on preserving important individual rights.

Testifying against the bill was ACLU.