

SB 104 with HCA 1 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Kraus (Dugger)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 9 to 2.

This bill requires any action brought challenging the ballot title or fiscal note to be fully and finally adjudicated within 180 days of filing and more than 56 days prior to the election or the action must be extinguished unless a court extends the period upon a finding of good cause for the extension.

HCA 1: Prohibits a person from qualifying as a candidate for elective public office who has been found guilty of or pled guilty to a felony or misdemeanor under federal law or to a felony under the laws of this state; requires any person who files as a candidate for election to public office to be disqualified if he or she is delinquent in the payment of specified taxes or the person is a past or present corporate officer of any fee office that owes any taxes to the state and each candidate must file an affidavit with the Department of Revenue declaring that he or she is not aware of any delinquency and include a copy of the affidavit with the required declaration of candidacy; specifies that Sections 115.307 to 115.405, RSMo, regarding political parties and nomination of candidates, must not apply to candidates for special district offices; township offices in township organization counties; or city, town, and village offices; requires all elections for any school district that becomes an urban school district because of the 2000 federal census must be held annually at the same times and places as general municipal elections for all years where one or more terms expire and the terms must be for three years; Repeals obsolete provisions regarding the election of school board members in St. Joseph School District based on the 1960 census and requires the district to hold elections annually at the same times and places as general municipal elections for all years where one or more terms expire; requires a candidate for the school board in the St. Joseph School District to file a declaration of candidacy with the secretary of the school board and must not be required to submit a petition; and contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will save election authorities a great deal of money by reducing the need to reprint ballots.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Kraus.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.