

HB 2208 -- PAPER BALLOTS

SPONSOR: Curtman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 5 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Administrative Oversight Committee by a vote of 10 to 2.

This bill requires that all electronic voting systems produce results from paper ballots marked by hand, or in the case of disabled voters who need assistance, from paper ballots marked by a paper ballot marking device designed to assist such voters. Direct-record electronic voting machines shall be phased out upon mechanical failure. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 01, 2019, for the requirement to cease replacement of voting machines when they must be retired for mechanical failure.

This bill is similar to HB 1778 (2016).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide an audit trail for any potential contested election and will help prevent election fraud.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Curtman; David W Guest; Karen Leydens; Bev Ehler, Concerned Women for America of Missouri; Phillip Michaels; and Cynthia Richards, Missouri Coalition For Transparent and Secure Elections.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.