

HCS HB 2117 -- FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

SPONSOR: Shaul

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Redistricting by a vote of 8 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 4.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2117.

This bill creates boundaries for the eight Missouri Congressional districts beginning with the 118th Congress of the United States.

The substitute places the entire city of Richmond in the sixth Congressional district and utilizes the Missouri River as a boundary.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

The Congressional district map corresponding to the bill is posted on the public bill page for the Missouri House of Representatives.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill draws the eight Congressional districts that Missouri is entitled to, and retains from the last redistricting cycle, in a fair way focusing on compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act, compactness, contiguity, maintaining the core of existing districts, considering communities of interest, and avoiding county and political subdivision splits where possible.

District number five in the Kansas City area is significantly more compact, and district number one, including St. Louis City, will remain a majority minority legislative district.

Missouri had an increase of approximately 165,000 persons and so ideal districts were drawn within a person of 769,364 persons.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Shaul; Jarodd Stansberry; and Jeffrey E. Rash.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the introduced map splits the city of Richmond, Missouri. This is difficult for citizens of Richmond and could hinder economic development.

Election costs could also increase for the city. There is no preference regarding whether the city should be included in the fourth or sixth Congressional district, but it should not be split.

Missouri Right to Life indicates that Missouri has become a very conservative state in recent years and that a 7-1 map which is likely to elect seven pro-life candidates is favored by her organization.

Testifying against the bill were Barbara Hardwick; Betty Glynn; Carla Hogan; Christopher Smith; Daniel Bush; James Robert Swafford; Julie Baker; Karmen G Dooley; Kelley Martens; Lisa Wyse; Mary Sue Kinnard; Melinda Windsit; Mike Persell; Nina M Courtney; Peggy Hackett; Russ Green; Sarah Green; Shannon Williams; Sheri Watkins; Sherrill Ridge; Tricia Slade; Susan Klein, Missouri Right To Life; James Gorham, City of Richmond; James Carter; Mike Wright, City of Richmond Missouri; Tonya Willim, City of Richmond; Deanna J Guy.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill submitted written testimony.

Powerful Performance Solutions, LLC volunteered assistance with considering the boundaries of the fifth Congressional district which must expand considerably in population.

Testifying on the bill were Ken And Sue Molzahn; Doug Courtney; Troy Slater; Marilyn Mcleod, League Of Women Voters of Missouri; Arnie C. Dienoff; Nancy Saccone; Phillip P. Scaglia, Powerful Performance Solution, LLC For U.S Rep. Cleaver (Mo-5).

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.