

HCS HJR 74 -- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SPONSOR: Lewis (6)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 7 to 5.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 74.

Upon voter approval, this proposed amendment would require that initiative measures be approved by two-thirds of the votes cast thereon.

The substitute has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2023.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the state Constitution is extremely long and should be reduced in size. It should not contain obscure subjects such as bingo which are better included in state statutes.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lewis; Opportunity Solutions Project; and Julie Gaebe.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that they wish to preserve the fundamental right of the people to amend the Constitution in a fair and reasonable manner. It is extremely difficult to have initiative petitions certified and placed on the ballot.

Testifying against the bill were Susan Gibson; Jewish Community Relations Council; Cynthia Wegerer; Dawn Banks; Getta R. Hall; Valerie K Larm; Clarisse Teepe-Fryrear; Daniel Curran; Dwight Rezny; Evelyn Maddox; Jacqueline Farr; James R Turner; Kane Sheek, Missouri Sierra Club; Melissa A Vatterott, Missouri Coalition For The Environment; Paige Witek; Rebecca Smith; Stephanie; Tim Mobley; Angela Allen; Beth Franklin; Cheri L Crockett; Danielle Meert; Denise D. Lieberman, Missouri Voter Protection Coalition; Don Crozier; Ellen Wentz; Francine Glass; Missouri AFL-CIO; Joan Gentry; Kendra Varns Wallis, Missouri Parks Association; Linda Rezny; Lori Staub; Pro Choice Missouri; Margaret Hefner; Mary C Primm; Mary Gross; Michele Steinberg, Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice; Nancy Price; Nicole Cooper; Missouri NEA; Richard Egan; Sally Brooks; Scott Randolph; Sherry L Buchanan; Stephen W. Skrainka; Stuart Francis Murphy; Susan Randolph; Trudy Marshall;

Jobs with Justice Voter Action; Arnie C. Dienoff; Chloe Owens, Missouri Health Care for All; Darla Kos; Gregory Woodhams; Jamie Newsham; Metropolitan Congregations United; Laura Gutierrez Perez; Luis Gutierrez; Margaret Phillips; Marilyn McLeod, League of Women Voters of Missouri; Rebecca Shaw; and Russella Levin.

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.