

HCS HJR 5 & 12 -- Photo Identification Requirement to Vote

SPONSOR: Cox

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 8 to 4.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment specifies that a person seeking to vote in person 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.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the amendment allows voters to determine whether photographic identification is an appropriate tool to combat fraud.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dugger.

OPPONENTS: Opponents say that we should not change the Missouri Constitution to undermine the right to vote. The state constitution is more protective of voting rights than the federal constitution and this is a good thing.

Testifying in opposition to the amendment were the ACLU of Eastern Missouri; and Denise Lieberman.