



Missouri House of Representatives

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CONTACT: Rep. Alex Riley
(573) 751-2210
Alex.Riley@House.Mo.Gov

Missouri House Passes Amended SJR 74, Heads Back to Senate for Further Review

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – The Missouri House of Representatives has made a historic move by passing SJR 74, which proposes crucial changes to the state constitution in an effort to enhance the integrity and transparency of the constitutional amendment process.

SJR 74, carried in the House by State Representative Alex Riley, aims to refine various provisions pertaining to constitutional amendments. Speaking before the House, Riley outlined how the resolution addresses key concerns regarding voter approval thresholds, foreign influence in initiative petitions, voter eligibility, and the review process for proposed amendments.

He explained that the resolution alters the amendment process by requiring broader geographic support across Missouri. It mandates that proposed amendments must garner majority support statewide and in over half of the congressional districts. Additionally, it ensures that only US citizens can vote on constitutional amendments in Missouri and prohibits foreign government interference. Furthermore, it establishes a framework for public review and comment on proposed amendments initiated through petitions, addressing a gap in the current process.

"It's crucial to enact these changes to our constitutional amendment process to safeguard the integrity of Missouri's democratic system. By ensuring broader geographic consensus, specifying that only U.S. citizens can vote on amendments, and prohibiting foreign government interference, we're strengthening the foundation of our state's governance," Riley, R-Springfield, said. "Moreover, establishing a structured framework for public review and comment on proposed amendments initiated through petitions enhances transparency and inclusivity in our democratic process. These measures are vital to upholding the principles of fairness, accountability, and sovereignty in our constitutional governance."

After careful consideration and debate, the Missouri House passed SJR 74 with amended language that would curb any potential foreign activity in the initiative petition process, reflecting the collaborative effort of legislators to ensure that the proposed amendments align with the best interests of Missourians while prohibiting any outside influence.

House Speaker Dean Plocher emphasized the importance of safeguarding the integrity of Missouri's electoral processes, saying, "Today's passage of SJR 74 reaffirms our commitment to protecting the sanctity of our state constitution. Initiative petition reform has been a priority of the Republican caucus for years. For too long, out-of-state billionaires have targeted our state to pass their agendas. Our House language reinforces safeguards against noncitizen voting and prohibiting foreign involvement in initiative petitions, ensuring that Missouri's electoral processes remain untainted by outside influences. Today, we are championing democracy and accountability, and saying once and for all that our constitution is not for sale."

The passage of SJR 74 out of the Missouri House marks a significant step forward in the legislative process, demonstrating the dedication of Missouri lawmakers to enact meaningful reforms that uphold the principles of transparency, fairness, and democracy. The amended resolution now returns to the Missouri Senate for further review and consideration.

Representative Alex Riley, a Republican, represents Greene County (District 134) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2020. For more information, please contact Rep. Riley's office at 573-751-2210 or by email at Alex.Riley@House.Mo.Gov.

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