

HCS HB 108 -- POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES

SPONSOR: Franz (Smith, 150)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 13 to 0.

Currently, a political action committee can only receive contributions from a corporation, association, or partnership formed under Chapters 347 - 360, RSMo. This substitute allows contributions from any corporation, association, or partnership. A candidate committee is not prohibited from purchasing tickets, membership dues, meals, advertising, and other similar items from a political action committee if the purchases or expenses incurred are related to education or service in office. Any elected official is allowed to incur expenses from a political action committee if they are related to education or service in office.

The substitute increases the number of days, from five to 30, that a person who acts as an agent for a committee in receiving contributions, making expenditures, or incurring indebtedness for the committee must render to the candidate, committee treasurer, or deputy treasurer a detailed account and removes the requirement that it must be at the request of the committee's treasurer, deputy treasurer, or candidate. The number of days in which a contribution received can be held in the agent's account is also increased from five to 30 days.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is needed to correct a provision from last year which inadvertently allows only certain companies and organizations to contribute to a political action committee.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Smith (150); Missouri Society of Governmental Consultants; Missouri Hospital Association; Missouri Bankers Association; Mortgage Bankers Association of Missouri; Missouri Financial Services Association; Missouri Association of Realtors; and Missouri Credit Union Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.