

HB 1125 -- CANDIDATE FILING FOR ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill allows a candidate with a physical disability or a candidate on active duty with the armed forces to have a representative draw for his or her placement on an election ballot. Currently, the candidate must draw for placement on the ballot in person.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow military personnel and disabled individuals to have an equal chance at fair ballot placement. These persons have always been allowed to file to run for office by certified mail if they were not present in the jurisdiction, but had no chance to have a representative draw lots or stand in line for purposes of securing a place on the ballot. Without this legislation, military service members and the disabled are usually placed last on the ballot by default.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dugger; John Scott, Office of the Secretary of State; Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities; and Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.