

HCS HB 1902 -- PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill changes the presidential primary date from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February to the second Tuesday after the first Monday in March.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will guarantee full representation for Missouri's major political parties at their conventions to choose candidates for president and vice-president by conforming the primary process to national major political party rules. This will allow the primary process to be effective and the political parties will not be forced to hold caucuses.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Dugger.

OTHERS: Others testifying for informational purposes say that the primary would cost approximately \$7.5 million including some additional expenses caused by the proximity of the March and April elections. Political parties have the right to use caucuses to choose delegates to their national convention and if both major parties were to exercise that right, then the primary costs may not be deemed a wise expenditure of state funds.

Testifying for informational purposes was the Missouri County Clerks Association.