

HJR 46 -- IMPEACHMENT TRIALS

SPONSOR: White

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 7 to 3.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment requires impeachments to be tried by the Senate. If the Governor is to be tried, the Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court will preside. A person will not be convicted without a two-thirds vote of all senators present. Currently, impeachments are tried before the Missouri Supreme Court or a special commission of seven jurists selected by the Senate with a conviction occurring upon a five-sevenths vote.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a resolution that revises the method used for impeachment proceedings in the state. It would put the impeachment proceedings back into the Senate.

Testifying for the bill was Representative White.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the citizens of Missouri adopted the present system for impeachment, and the current system should be retained.

Testifying against the bill were Woody Cozad and Missouri Bar of Governors.