

HCS HJR 54 -- GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP

SPONSOR: Hampton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Downsizing State Government by a vote of 8 to 4.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment decreases the number of members of the House of Representatives from 163 to 120 and increases the number of members of the Senate from 34 to 40 beginning with the 102nd General Assembly in 2023.

Senators from the three new senate districts having odd numbers established for the 102nd General Assembly must be elected by the qualified voters of the respective districts at the general election in November 2022 to an initial term of two years. For all general elections held thereafter, senators from the districts must be elected for four-year terms. The initial term of two years for the three new senate districts having odd numbers must not be counted against the limitations on years of service in the General Assembly provided for in Section 8 of Article III of the Missouri Constitution.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill reduces the membership of the House of Representatives from 163 members to 120 and increases the membership of the Senate from 34 to 40. Our house size is the fourth largest in the United States. Reducing the size of the House and enlarging the size of the Senate would bring us in line with the sizes of other states.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Hampton.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they would prefer a representative who works hard than one who is associated with a political party.

Testifying on the bill was Bev Ehlen.