

HJR 72 -- GOVERNOR'S AUTHORITY TO WITHHOLD FUNDS

SPONSOR: Richardson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 2.

Upon voter approval, this constitutional amendment prohibits the Governor from reducing any appropriation for the payment of public debt and requires him or her to notify the General Assembly by proclamation whenever the rate of expenditure for any appropriation is not expended in equal quarterly allotments or when the Governor reduces one or more items or a portion of an item of appropriation of money because actual revenues are less than the revenue estimates upon which the appropriations were based. The appropriation can be reconsidered in the same manner as a bill is reconsidered anytime the General Assembly is in session or when the next General Assembly convenes.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides additional oversight of the Governor's power to withhold funds and protects the legislature's responsibilities concerning the budget.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Richardson and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.