

HCS HB 353 -- ELECTIONS (Eggleston)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials

This bill expands the existing exception for small cities, towns, and villages under Section 115.124, RSMo, which allows candidates for election to assume office without holding an election if a particular election is uncontested and the number of candidates available equal the number of open positions, from cities, towns, or villages with 1,000 or less persons to those with 2,000 or less persons.

The bill also requires municipalities that schedule late elections via court order to pay for any administrative costs of the election authority. The election authority will provide good faith notice of such costs. If a municipality agrees to schedule an election and defaults on payment, then election authorities may recover triple damages, restitution, and attorney fees.

The bill also modifies the Section 115.117 requirement for the choice of polling places by an election authority by exempting public buildings located in St. Charles County from selection as polling places if they are under contract for use at the time of the election.

The bill is similar to HB 2111 (2016).