

HCS HB 754 -- CANDIDATE NAMES

SPONSOR: Schroer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules - Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 4.

This substitute specifies that any person running for elected public office within Missouri at the local or state level shall use their legal last name provided on a birth certificate or their married last name as changed under existing law, or a last name formally changed under existing law. No common law change of name will be accepted for placement on a ballot.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will reduce the opportunity for election fraud and confusion about candidate identity. It applies equally to men and women and allows candidates to retain nicknames as first names and to choose between last names at birth or legally changed last names.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Schroer.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.