

HB 2223 -- ETHICS

SPONSOR: Gregory

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill grants the Missouri Ethics Commission jurisdiction over campaign finance limits and other ethics rules recently adopted by the voters and made part of the Constitution of Missouri. The commission may adopt rules, investigate complaints, and enforce compliance with these constitutional provisions in the same manner that it is authorized to enforce statutory ethics requirements under Chapter 105, RSMo, and other cited provisions of general law.

This bill is similar to HB 1160 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this legislation gives the Missouri Ethics Commission the jurisdiction to investigate complaints regarding campaign contributions (Amendment 2, which was passed in 2016). Currently, complaints may be put before the commission, but this would allow the commission to actually receive and investigate such complaints.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Gregory; James Klahr, Missouri Ethics Commission; and The Honorable Jon E. Beetem.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.