

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 140

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SATER.

Pre-filed December 1, 2016, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

0570S.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to ranked-choice voting.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 115.710, to read as follows:

115.710. 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall mean:

- (1) "Continuing ballot", a ballot that is not an exhausted ballot;**
- (2) "Continuing candidate", a candidate who has not received the least amount of votes in a round;**
- (3) "Exhausted ballot", a ballot that does not rank a continuing candidate, contains an overvote at the highest continuing ranking, or contains two or more sequential skipped rankings before its highest continuing ranking;**
- (4) "Local office", any county, special district, township, city, town, or village office;**
- (5) "Overvote", a circumstance in which a voter has ranked more than one candidate at the same ranking;**
- (6) "Ranked-choice voting", the method of casting and tabulating votes in an order of preference;**
- (7) "Ranking", the number assigned on a ballot by a voter to a candidate expressing such voter's preference for that candidate.**

2. (1) Beginning January 1, 2018, all candidates for a local office shall be elected through ranked-choice voting.

(2) In determining the winner of an election using ranked-choice voting, election judges shall count votes for all candidates in the

22 following manner:

23 (a) Judges shall count votes in rounds. In each round, election
24 judges shall only count the number of votes for each continuing
25 candidate from continuing ballots and each continuing ballot shall
26 count as one vote for its highest-ranked continuing candidate for that
27 round;

28 (b) In any round that ends with three or more continuing
29 candidates, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be eliminated
30 and a new round shall begin, provided that if a continuing candidate
31 receives more than fifty percent of the votes, such candidate shall be
32 declared the winner. Voters who chose an eliminated candidate as the
33 highest-ranked candidate shall have their next highest-ranked
34 continuing candidate considered as the highest ranking candidate
35 during the next round;

36 (c) If a round ends with two or fewer continuing candidates, the
37 candidate with the most votes shall be the winner of the election.

38 3. The provisions of this section shall only apply to primary
39 elections.

40 4. Each election authority shall only use ballots which permit
41 voters to cast their vote through the means of ranking candidates by
42 order of preference.

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