

HB 537 with HCA 1 -- GEOGRAPHIC RECORDS

SPONSOR: Dohrman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill allows a computer-assisted mass appraisal (CAMA) system to be used by a county assessor, except in charter counties, to assist in the performance of his or her duties and in estimating property value. The bill also allows the county assessor or communities to restrict access to geographic information associated with a CAMA system.

HCA 1: Specifies that raw data used in a CAMA system is a public record, but that use of the computer system may require a license agreement between the county assessor and the party requesting data. Fees for routine data collection by specified entities including title collectors, real estate brokers, banks, news organizations, mortgage companies, and appraisers are limited to those in Section 610.026, RSMo.

PROponents: Supporters say that the bill will help prevent fraudulent and unfair uses of sophisticated computer programs and data paid for by county assessors.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dohrman and William Wiggins, Missouri State Assessor's Association.

OPponents: Those who oppose the bill say that there are many legitimate uses for geographic data and it is best viewed legally as public information subject to Chapter 610, RSMo, otherwise known as the Sunshine Law.

Testifying against the bill were Jean Maneke, The Maneke Law Group Sage Information Services and Missouri Association of Realtors.