

HB 1045 with HCA 1 -- COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S SERVICES FUNDS

SPONSOR: Zerr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, before taking office an individual elected treasurer by a community children's services fund must furnish a surety bond that meets specified requirements. This bill adds the option of furnishing comparable insurance coverage for theft, misappropriation, mismanagement, or other acts that otherwise meet the specified requirements for a surety bond under these provisions. The bill prohibits the state legislature from mandating the board to expend funds without a majority vote of the county or city not within a county. The bill prohibits any county or city not within a county where voters have approved the levy of a tax under these provisions from adding services in addition to those currently permitted by the provisions of the bill at the time the levy is approved by voters unless the voters approve the additional services.

HCA 1: Makes a technical change to the bill by adding a reference to Section 67.1775, RSMo

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Community Children's Services Fund is a voluntary tax that counties have opted into to provide important services for children in the counties. The goal of the bill is to honor the voice of the people. In recent years there have been many attempts to change the menu of services in statute, so the bill requires that before any additional services are added to the menu of services provided with the local tax dollars, there be a vote of the people in the county that initially voted for the tax. The surety bond required under current statute is a good idea and serves a good purpose, however the boards already have director and officers' insurance which provides the same coverage as a surety bond. Under current statutes, the board must maintain director and officers' insurance and then must also obtain a surety bond for the treasurer. It is a waste of money to double insure the treasurer and the funds could otherwise be used to provide services.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Zerr; Bruce Sowatsky, Community & Children's Resource Board; Annie Schulte, Franklin Co Community & Resource Board; Kelly Wallis, Boone Co Community Services; Missouri Coalition Of Children's Agencies; Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of Mo; and Patrick Dougherty.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.