

HCS SCS SB 932 -- COUNTY OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Scott (Wilson, 119)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding political subdivisions. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Allows a county commission to reject the transfer of title of real property to the county by donation or dedication if it is in the best interest of the county to do so. The preparer of a document donating or dedicating real property to a county cannot submit the document for recording unless the grantee's acceptance is proved or acknowledged (Section 49.292, RSMo);

(2) Establishes the salary schedule for public administrators in second, third, and fourth classification counties who choose to be paid by salary and who are considered full-time county officials as the base schedule for those officials, unless the current salary is lower than the compensation in the schedule. The lowering of county official salaries below the level being paid on August 28, 2005, is retroactively prohibited, and any action or vote doing so is voided (Section 50.327);

(3) Authorizes the salary commission in Cape Girardeau County to meet to determine whether to equalize the base salaries of the treasurer and public administrator with the base salaries of the auditor and recorder of deeds (Section 50.339);

(4) Requires all charter counties to mail property tax statements and receipts to taxpayers at least 30 days before being due. Currently, statements are required to be mailed at least 15 days before the due date (Section 52.230);

(5) Adds new requirements for candidates seeking the office of county treasurer (Section 54.040);

(6) Allows sensitive personal identifying information contained in recordable documents to be redacted or removed by the preparer of the document or the recorder of deeds (Sections 59.331 and 59.332);

(7) Allows county commissions, at their discretion, to open a county road and conclusively establishes the status as a public road of any county road for which the county has received county aid road trust funds for at least five years after January 1, 1990. The county highway engineer is no longer required to examine and approve a road or road change before the county

commission takes action on the road (Sections 228.040, 228.070, and 228.190); and

(8) Makes any term or provision in a contract unenforceable if it requires a public administrator who is acting as a guardian to personally pay or guarantee the debt of a ward or protectee (Section 473.748).

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are currently no requirements for county treasurers, but there are for other county offices. The bill will help to ensure that qualified candidates are elected.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Scott; and Missouri County Treasurers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst