

SJR 26 -- TAXATION OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

SPONSOR: Ridgeway (Jackson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0.

This proposed constitutional amendment exempts, upon voter approval, the property of any veteran organization from taxation.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$52,560 in FY 2007, \$0 in FY 2008, and \$0 in FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the property of veteran service organizations like the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars is generally considered tax exempt because they are devoted to charitable work. Historically, these organizations have never been taxed because they are incorporated as not-for-profits, which should qualify for the exemption. However, some county assessors have started taxing the property because the Missouri Constitution does not expressly exempt them from property tax. The bill will allow Missouri citizens to vote on if this property should be taxed.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Ridgeway; Representative Jackson; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department; Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations; and American Legion, Department of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst