

HCS SB 820 -- RECLASSIFICATION OF COUNTIES

SPONSOR: Rupp (Schieffer)

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

Currently, counties can change classification only after their assessed valuation qualifies for the new classification for five successive years, except that any county may become a first classification county at any time after it reaches the required assessed valuation and the county governing body elects to change classification. This substitute allows second classification counties to also change classification upon reaching the required assessed valuation and approval from the governing body.

The effective date for the classification is changed from the beginning of the county's fiscal year following the next general election after certification of the new assessed valuation to the beginning of the county's fiscal year following the election by the governing body.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Lincoln County has the assessed valuation to become a first classification county but the change would entail too many changes too quickly so they want to be a second classification county for a while before considering changing to a first classification county. Changing from third to second classification would require the county to have a county auditor, and the county is fully prepared to pay the auditor's salary.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Rupp.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.