

HCS SCS SB 939 -- LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Stouffer (Quinn, 7)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 6 to 0.

This substitute increases the amount the board of supervisors of any levee district can levy in the form of a uniform tax from up to \$1 per acre of land and each mile of right-of-way of all public service corporations to up to \$8 per acre of land and each mile of right-of-way. The amount the board of supervisors of any drainage district can levy in the form of a uniform tax is increased from up to \$1 per acre of land to up to \$8 per acre of land.

Currently, only owners of 25% or more of the property in certain drainage districts can petition a court for readjustment of the assessment of benefits for the property in the district. The substitute allows the district board of supervisors to petition for a readjustment for some or all of the property in the district as identified in the petition.

The substitute also clarifies that property owners or the board of supervisors in levee districts can petition a court for a readjustment of the assessment of benefits for just a particular part of the property in the district as identified in the petition.

Drainage districts in St. Louis County are authorized to adopt an alternative procedure regarding voting rights. All drainage districts are authorized to adopt an alternative procedure for the apportionment of installment taxes after a readjustment of the assessment of benefits.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund for FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of \$0 to \$4,603 in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill increases the amount of money levee and drainage districts can raise to deal with flooding. Flooding continues to be a problem for many areas of the state, and the current uniform tax of \$1 per acre of land is not enough. The increased levy will allow for greater resources and administration for landowners organizing as a drainage or levee district.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Stouffer.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.