

HB 894 -- City Sales Taxes

Sponsor: Roorda

Currently, under the general city sales tax law, cities may impose a city sales tax, upon voter approval, at a rate of one-half of 1%, seven-eighths of 1%, or 1%, and the City of St. Louis may impose the tax at a rate not to exceed one and three-eighths percent, for the benefit of the city. This bill specifies that the combined rate of sales taxes adopted under the city sales tax law cannot exceed 2%. This change is not to be construed as a new tax or an increase in the current levy of an existing tax for the purpose of Section 22, Article X, of the Missouri Constitution, commonly known as the Hancock Amendment, which requires voter approval; and cities that have already imposed and collected taxes under the city sales tax law can continue to do so without voter approval as a continuation of a tax previously approved by the voters of the city.

Currently, under the capital improvements city sales tax law, cities not in St. Louis County may impose a sales tax, upon voter approval, at a rate of one-eighth, one-fourth, three-eighths, or one-half of 1% for the purpose of funding, operating, and maintaining capital improvements. Municipalities in charter counties are authorized to impose a capital improvements tax under Section 94.890, RSMo. The bill specifies that the combined rate of sales taxes adopted under the capital improvement city sales tax law cannot exceed 1%. This change is not to be construed as a new tax or an increase in the current levy of an existing tax for the purpose of the Hancock Amendment which requires voter approval; and cities that have already imposed and collected taxes under the city sales tax law can continue to do so without voter approval as a continuation of a tax previously approved by the voters of the city.

The bill also authorizes the City of Peculiar and any city in Jefferson County to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to 0.5% for the operation of public safety departments including compensation, pension programs, health care, and additional equipment and facilities.