HB 1636 -- JURISDICTION FOR CERTAIN MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

SPONSOR: Fuhr

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, a city, town, or village with less than 400,000 residents can choose to have violations of its municipal ordinances heard and determined by either a county municipal court or an associate circuit court, and once the choice is made, all municipal ordinance violations will be heard by that court.

This bill authorizes a city, town, or village to elect to have violations involving an accused with special needs due to mental disorder or mental illness, or whose special needs, circumstances, and charges cannot adequately be accommodated by the municipal court to be heard and determined by the associate circuit court or county municipal court. The associate circuit court or county municipal court must be able to provide adequate accommodations and resources for specifically handling these matters and must consent to the transfer.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is needed to allow municipalities to refer some cases to the county court without having to refer all of the cases to the county court.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fuhr; Glenn Eidman, Chief of Police, Creve Coeur, Missouri; Lt. William Funkhouser, Creve Coeur, Missouri, Police Department; Carl Lumley, Creve Coeur, Missouri, City Attorney; Joyce Kelley, Associate County Counselor, St. Louis County; Janet Gianino, Corrections Case Manager, St. Louis County; and St. Louis County Municipal League.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.