

HB 1076 -- COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Hubbard

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Standing Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 4 to 3.

This bill authorizes all community improvement districts (CIDs) to impose, upon voter approval, a business license tax. Currently, only CIDs in the cities of Springfield and Liberty have this authorization. The business license tax must be collected by the city or county official generally responsible for collecting business license taxes in the city or county where the CID is located. A business license cannot be issued to any business within a CID until the business license tax and any penalties accrued have been paid in full. If a business license has been issued and the business is in default on the payment of the business license tax for at least 60 days, the business license must be revoked after 10 days' notice. If the official or entity collecting business license taxes does not issue business licenses, the official or entity must provide the issuer with information regarding any tax and penalties due.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that taxing business owners makes the community more viable and keeps everything upgraded. Everyone benefits from funding CIDs because they contribute to the operations that are required to improve the community. The businesses within a CID will vote whether to approve it, so the program is only going to be used by cities that want to use it.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hubbard; Mayor's Office, City of St. Louis; John Clark and Craig Biesterfeld, Laclede's Landing CID; and Phyllis Young, St. Louis City Alderwoman.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.