

HCS SB 607 -- SALES TAX FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

SPONSOR: Dixon (Hough)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 13 to 0.

Currently, every five years the City of Springfield must submit to the voter the question of whether to repeal its public safety sales tax. This bill modifies the ballot language so that the question will be whether to continue the tax. Failure by the voters to approve continuation will result in a repeal of the tax.

The bill authorizes the City of Liberty to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to .5% solely for the purpose of improving the public safety of the city, including expenditures on equipment; salaries and benefits; and facilities for police, fire, and emergency medical providers.

The bill allows a seller to advertise that the required sales tax or any part of the sales tax on property sold or service rendered will be assumed or absorbed by the person into the price of the property or the service if the amount of the tax assumed or absorbed is separately stated on the invoice or receipt.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that each time Springfield must put the public safety sales tax before the voters, voters must vote "no" to approve the tax. The bill modifies the ballot language to be straightforward and less confusing for voters.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Dixon.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.