HCS SCS SB 190 -- PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX

SPONSOR: Curls (Berry)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 9 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, the part of the public mass transportation sales tax imposed by the City of Kansas City in excess of 7.5% expires on December 31, 2015. This bill removes the expiration date.

The bill requires the State Auditor to report to the Department of Revenue any transportation development district that fails to timely submit its annual financial statement to the State Auditor and imposes a fine of up to $500 per day. The district has 30 days from the date of the receipt of the notice to request a hearing to contest the fine. The Department of Revenue is authorized to collect the fines by offsetting any sales tax distributions through any means permitted under law for the collection of taxes, and must annually distribute the revenues, less a collection fee, to the schools of the county where the district is located in the same manner that penalties, forfeitures, and fines for penal code violations are distributed. Any district with gross revenues of less than $1000 will not be subject to the fine. At its first meeting, the board of directors of a district must notify the State Auditor that the district has been established.

The actual costs of a statutorily permitted or petition audit of a district performed by the State Auditor must be paid by the district and cannot exceed the greater of 3% of the district's gross revenues or 3% of its expenditures.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill only seeks parity with the City of St. Louis because the expiration date for the City of St. Louis was removed previously.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Curls; KCATA; Robbie Makinen, Kansas City Area Transit Authority; Kansas City Missouri; and Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.