

HCS HB 1757 -- COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Hansen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Attraction and Retention by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Commerce by a vote of 6 to 1.

Currently, only Kansas City may file a petition to initiate the process to establish a community improvement district in Clay County. This bill allows any municipality to file a petition to initiate the process to establish a district in any county as long as the chief elected officer of the municipality signs the petition. An authorized representative of a municipality may sign the petition to start the community improvement district creation process, and the clerk of the governing body seeking to initiate a tax within a community improvement district shall record the boundaries of the district with the recorder of deeds for the county in which any portion of the district is located.

If a majority of the qualified voters voting on the proposition vote in favor of the proposition, then the district will be created and the tax may be imposed by the district's board of directors without further approval of the qualified voters of the district. If the majority of the qualified voters reject the proposition, then the governing body of the municipality may not resubmit the question to qualified voters of the district for at least one year. Qualified voters are those voters who reside within the district. Once created, the state auditor may audit a district just like any state agency.

This bill is similar to HB 186 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will make the economic development tool of community improvement districts available to all Missouri municipalities, and streamlining the community improvement district creation process saves expenses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hansen; Mark Spykerman, Gilmore & Bell PC; Bart Niedner, City Of Louisiana; Missouri Municipal League; Kansas City Missouri; The Britton Group, LLC; and the Missouri Land Title Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.