

HCS HB 1912 -- POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SPONSOR: Hinson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 10 to 0.

COUNTY BUILDING PROJECTS (Sections 49.330, 49.410, 49.420, 49.430, and 49.440, RSMo)

This bill eliminates the position of superintendent of county buildings and specifies that the county commission will assume some of the superintendent's duties and the commission can contract for oversight and direction of the execution of a building project.

CONTRACT AND ORDER THRESHOLD (Section 50.660)

This bill establishes a minimum threshold of \$10,000 above which contracts and orders must be in writing and must have a matching unencumbered balance in the fund from which it will be made; currently, all contracts must meet these requirements.

The bill increases the threshold from \$6,000 to \$10,000 below which advertising is not required for bid proposals, and increases the threshold from \$4,500 to \$10,000 below which bids are not required for purchases from any one person or entity during a fiscal year.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING NOTICE (Section 50.783)

Currently, a county commission may waive competitive bidding when it determines in writing and enters into the commission's minutes that there is only one feasible source for the supply. The commission must post notice for proposed purchases of \$3,000 or more and also advertise in the newspaper for purchases of \$5,000 or more. The bill changes the notice threshold to more than \$5,000 but less than \$10,000, and changes the advertising threshold to \$10,000.

VIOLATION (Section 50.790)

The bill changes from a misdemeanor to an infraction a violation by county commissioners of the requirement to obtain a pre-purchase order or requisition, and changes the allowable fine from between \$50 to \$1,000 to \$100.

LIQUOR LICENSES (Section 55.161)

The requirement that auditors in counties of the first and second classification must countersign all liquor licenses is repealed.

#### AMENDING ZONING DISTRICTS (Section 64.875)

The bill clarifies that county commissions can amend zoning districts only upon recommendation by the county planning or county zoning commission and only after a hearing by the county commission.

#### TAX COLLECTORS (Section 139.031)

County collectors or the collector of taxes in the city of St. Louis are prohibited from issuing a refund or credit of \$1,000 or more for taxes erroneously or mistakenly levied against a taxpayer without authorization from a county commission, board of equalization, or court of competent jurisdiction.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is basically clean-up to eliminate obsolete language.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Hinson.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.