

HCS HB 247 -- MUNICIPAL WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

SPONSOR: Alferman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 0.

Currently, certain special charter and fourth class cities may only sell their interest in a municipally-owned utility when ratified by a two-thirds vote. This bill lowers the voter-approval threshold for the sale of a water or wastewater system to a majority of the city's population.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that they would be interested in purchasing some municipal utilities so the lower voter-approval threshold would be beneficial.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Alferman and Cheryl Norton, Missouri American Water.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this is an important decision for municipalities and that the higher voter-approval threshold better represents the will of the residents of the municipality.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Association Of Municipal Utilities; Missouri Municipal League; and Missouri Rural Water Association.