

HCS HB 979 -- COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

SPONSOR: Walker (3)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Pensions by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill modifies the fees deposited in the County Employees' Retirement Fund (CERF) for funding the plan.

The recorder of deeds fee on documents recorded or filed is increased from \$6 to \$9; a fee on delinquent and back dated taxes is increased from 7% to 9%. Of the 9% collected, 2% is paid to the County General Fund, 2% is paid to the county's tax maintenance fund, and 5% is paid to CERF; the penalty for failing to return personal property assessment lists is increased by \$5; and the amount the county collector and clerk receive per tract of land recorded as delinquent on taxes is increased by \$5 each with such sum going to CERF.

This bill is similar to SCS SB 295 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this increase in fees will help the retirement system to be more solvent. The retirement system was created in 1994 and has increased in size with more people being covered for retirement benefits.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walker; Sara Maxwell, County Employees Retirement Fund; Missouri County Collectors Association; Missouri County Treasurers Association; Recorders Association of Missouri; Todd Smith, Missouri Association of Counties; County Commission Association; Missouri Association of Public Administrators; and Missouri Association of County Clerks & Election Authorities.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this is too large of an increase. These fees are 10 times more expensive than the cost to record the deeds. These funds are going toward everything else but the cost of recording the property deed.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Land & Title Association.