

HCS SB 53 -- COUNTY OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Crawford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules - Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill allows a county treasurer to have access to documents in possession of county employees upon request when reviewing a warrant. Officials of any county cannot deny a request from a county treasurer to examine documents reasonably relevant to perform their duties regarding salaries of county officials.

Currently, members of county planning commission may be reimbursed up to \$25 for the attendance at a meeting. This bill increases the amount for attendance at a meeting to \$35.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will allow county treasurers to review documents relevant to performing their required duties and will allow better transparency in performing their required duties.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Crawford; Grote Group LLC; and Rick Renno, Missouri County Treasurers Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill is not required, counties already provide the necessary information and this goes beyond the duties of the treasurer.

Testifying against the bill were Charlotte Ward, Missouri Association of County Auditors; and Kevin Merritt, Missouri Sheriffs Association.