

SCS HCS HB 685 -- PUBLIC OFFICES

This bill changes laws regarding public offices. In its main provisions the bill:

- (1) Lowers the minimum age requirement to 21 years for holding various county offices and special district board memberships. Included in the offices and districts affected are: county clerk; county auditor; county coroner; county surveyor; seven-director school board; ambulance district board; sewer district trustee; public water supply district board; emergency telephone services board; hospital district board; fire protection district board; court clerk; and mayor for third or fourth class cities;
- (2) Requires a person appointed to elective public office not be delinquent in the payment of state income tax, personal property tax, municipal tax or real property tax;
- (3) A residency requirement for the Office of Attorney General is also repealed;
- (4) Creates an exception to dissolving candidate committees for any person holding a municipal or school district office;
- (5) Authorizes county treasurers to access specified information needed to process warrants;
- (6) Removes a requirement that the presiding commissioner of Cass county be the budget officer unless the county commission designates the county clerk as the budget officer;
- (7) Provides that each candidate for county recorder shall provide to the election authority a copy of an affidavit from a surety company authorized to do business in this state that indicates the candidate is about to satisfy the bond requirements of the office. Additionally, under current law, all recorders of deeds elected in first, second, and third classification counties shall enter into bond with the state for an amount set by the county commission. However, this amount shall not be less than \$1000 with sufficient sureties. Under this bill, these provisions shall only apply to recorders of deeds elected prior to January 1, 2022. The bill provides that all recorders of deeds elected after December 31, 2021, in first, second, and third classification counties shall enter into bond with the state for an amount set by the county commission of not less than \$5000 with sufficient sureties; and
- (8) Authorizes applicants for a marriage license to present an application for the license to the recorder of deeds in person or electronically through an online process. Additionally, in the

event a recorder of deeds utilizes an online process to accept applications for a marriage license or to issue a marriage license and the applicants' identity has not been verified in person, the recorder shall have a two-step identity verification process or other process that verifies the identity of the applicants. Finally, the recorder shall not accept applications for or issue marriage licenses through an online process unless at least one of the applicants is a resident of the county in which the application is submitted.