

HB 257 -- RECLASSIFICATION OF COUNTIES

SPONSOR: Schieffer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, counties can change classification only after their assessed valuation qualifies for the new classification for five successive years, except that any county may become a first classification county at any time after it reaches the required assessed valuation and the county governing body elects to change classification. This bill allows a county to become a second classification county upon reaching the required assessed valuation and approval from the governing body.

The effective date for the classification is changed from the beginning of the county's fiscal year following the next general election after certification of the new assessed valuation to the beginning of the county's fiscal year following the election by the governing body.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Lincoln County has the assessed valuation to become a first classification county, but the process requires too many changes too quickly. They want to go to a second classification for a while before considering changing to a first classification county. Changing from a third to a second classification will require the county to have a county auditor, and the county is fully prepared to pay the salary for an auditor.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schieffer; and Matt Bass, Lincoln County Commission.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.