

HCS HB 381 -- DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE FEE OFFICES

SPONSOR: Jones, 89 (Silvey)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute requires the Department of Revenue to award fee office contracts by considering the best interests of the state. The department must ensure that entities capable of reducing customer wait times to 30 minutes or less are awarded contracts. Contracts will be awarded first to not-for-profit organizations and then to municipalities, counties, and fire protection districts. No individual or for-profit organization will be awarded a contract unless there are no priority-status entities available. No employee under a fee service contract can receive more than \$100,000 per year for his or her services. The department will provide assistance to new fee office contract holders, and the State Auditor may audit fee offices in the same manner as state agencies.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will end the patronage system in the awarding of fee office contracts. Governor Nixon has started this new process by executive order, but putting it into statute is desirable. Public sector and nonprofit organizations should be given priority so that fee office revenues will be used to help local communities.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Silvey.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that a competitive bidding process and granting preference to public and nonprofit organizations for fee office contracts is very desirable. The department does not advocate a mandate for on-line renewal of licenses at all fee offices.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Revenue.