

HB 1254 -- RURAL EMPOWERMENT ZONE CRITERIA

SPONSOR: Wilson (119)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Rural Community Development by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, up to two rural empowerment zones are allowed to exist in Hickory County, which has a population of 8,940 residents. This bill allows a rural empowerment zone to exist in any county with 20,000 or fewer residents, which includes 61 counties, but prohibits more than one zone in any county.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Effect on General Revenue Fund of an income of \$0 to a cost of Unknown - could exceed \$3,600,000 in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that it is very difficult for a rural community to encourage new businesses to locate in its area. The bill will provide a powerful incentive that may reverse the current negative economic growth experienced in rural Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wilson (119); Associated Industries of Missouri; and Taxpayers Research Institute of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.