

HCS SS SB 781 -- EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPONSOR: Goodman (Weter)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 11 to 1.

This substitute changes the laws regarding emergency services. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Specifies that Christian, Boone, and Greene counties are not required to obtain bids on purchases of \$6,000 or less. Currently, the required amount is \$4,500 for all counties. Currently, a county may waive competitive bidding when the county commission determines that there is only one feasible source for the supply. The commission must post notice for proposed purchases of at least \$3,000 and also advertise in the newspaper for purchases of at least \$5,000. The substitute changes the notice and advertising requirements for Christian, Boone, and Greene counties, so that they are only required to advertise and post notice on proposed purchases which exceed \$6,000 (Sections 50.660 and 50.783, RSMo);

(2) Creates a county drinking water supply lake authority in Christian County to promote the general welfare and a safe drinking water supply through the construction, operation and maintenance of a drinking water supply lake in the county (Section 67.4505);

(3) Requires Taney County, upon voter approval of a county sales tax for central dispatching of emergency services, to appoint a seven-member emergency services board including the county sheriff and at least one member from the head of any of the county's fire protection districts, the county's ambulance districts, the police departments in the county, and the county's emergency management organizations, or their respective designees, to administer the funds and oversee the provision of emergency services (Section 190.335);

(4) Merges the provisions of Sections 190.400 through 190.440 and 650.320 through 650.340, in order to establish a single entity that will oversee emergency 911 services statewide to insure consistent quality and performance. The provisions regarding the Wireless Service Provider Enhanced 911 Advisory Board established in Section 190.410 are repealed and the Advisory Committee for 911 Service Oversight established in Section 650.325 as the 911 Service Oversight Board is renamed and reduced in size from 16 to seven members. The provisions regarding the 911 Training and Standards Act are moved to Section 190.445 from Section 650.340 (Sections 190.411, 190.415, and

190.445);

(5) Adds any emergency medical technician licensed pursuant to Chapter 190 to the list of individuals who can report to the Department of Revenue any person diagnosed or assessed as having a disorder or condition that may prevent him or her from safely operating a motor vehicle in order to provide the department director with good cause to believe that the operator is incompetent or unqualified to retain his or her driver's license (Section 302.291);

(6) Requires the certification testing and recertification fee that the Division of Fire Safety, within the Department of Public Safety, and the State Fire Marshal charges for the voluntary training and certification program for firefighters and other persons in the field of emergency response, rescue, and fire prevention and preparedness to be deposited into the Fire Education Fund established in Section 320.094 instead of being deposited into the General Revenue Fund (Section 320.202);

(7) Requires any fire protection district director who has been found guilty of or pled guilty to any felony offense to immediately forfeit his or her office. The substitute also prohibits a person from serving as a director or having the person's name appear on the ballot as a candidate for that office if the person is in arrears for any unpaid or past due county taxes (Section 321.130);

(8) Requires members appointed to a fire protection district board to also complete the educational training. The requirement to complete educational training is in addition to the qualifications for the office prescribed by law. Currently, elected members of a board are required to complete certain educational training (Section 321.162);

(9) Specifies that if any city, town, village, or county adopts, implements, and enforces a residential construction regulatory system applicable to residential construction within its jurisdiction, any fire protection district wholly or partially located therein is prohibited from enforcing or implementing a residential construction regulatory system. Any regulatory system adopted by a fire protection district or its board will be treated as advisory only and cannot be enforced. Fire protection districts will have final regulatory authority regarding the location and specifications of fire hydrants, fire hydrant flow rates, and fire lanes and can inspect residential dwellings but cannot charge a fee for the services (Section 321.228);

(10) Authorizes a fire protection district with an assessed valuation of \$250 million or less to levy, upon voter approval,

an additional property tax of not more than 50 cents per \$100 assessed valuation to support the district (Section 321.241);

(11) Allows two or more districts to consolidate if they are located within the same county, in whole or in part. Currently, two or more fire protection districts may consolidate with each other only if the districts have one or more common boundaries, in whole or in part (Section 321.460);

(12) Lowers the number of qualified signatures required in order to recall an officer of a fire protection district board from 25% to 20% of the number of voters who voted in the most recent gubernatorial election in that district (Section 321.711); and

(13) Requires an anemometer tower, which is a wind speed testing tower, that is located outside of a municipality's boundaries and is 50 feet or more in height to have certain safety markings. The top third of the tower must be painted in equal, alternating bands of aviation orange and white, each outside guy wire must have two attached marker balls, the vegetation around guy wire anchor points must contrast with surrounding vegetation, and guy wires must have safety sleeves. An owner of an anemometer tower in existence as of August 28, 2012, is given one year after the substitute's effective date to comply with these requirements. A violation of these provisions is a class C misdemeanor (Section 1).

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of \$105,873 in FY 2013, \$127,048 in FY 2014, and \$127,048 in FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will allow Taney County to appoint an emergency services board instead of having an elected board which will save the county the cost of elections.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Goodman; and City of Branson.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.