

HCS SCS SB 896 -- COUNTY GOVERNANCE

SPONSOR: Wallingford (Engler)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 16 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding county governance. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Adds Buchanan County to the list of counties authorized to impose, by rule, regulation, or ordinance a civil fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation of any county rule, regulation, or ordinance;

(2) Authorizes the governing body of Clay County, through the creation of a recreational and community center district which may include only the area encompassed by the Liberty School District and public parks located wholly or partially therein to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax on all retail sales made within the recreational and community center district that are subject to sales tax. The tax authorized may not exceed .5% and must be used for the purpose of funding the construction, maintenance, operation of, and purchase of equipment for community centers and other purposes of recreation and wellness as determined by the board established to administer the powers and duties of these provisions. The board must consist of eight members from specified areas of the district who are residents of the district;

(3) Authorizes New Madrid County to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to .5% to fund transportation infrastructure improvements. The governing body of the county must submit the question of repeal of the tax to the voters at least every four years;

(4) Authorizes Perry County to impose, upon voter approval, a transient guest tax of up to 6% per occupied room per night to be used solely for the promotion of tourism; and

(5) Repeals the provisions requiring Randolph County to operate, furnish, and maintain a county courthouse in the City of Moberly in addition to the courthouse in the county seat in the City of Huntsville for purposes of the circuit court, county court, probate court, municipal corporation courts, and other county officers.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that counties need additional options to generate revenue for specific purposes.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Wallingford.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.