

HCS SB 221 -- POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SPONSOR: Schatz (Hinson)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 9 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill changes laws regarding political subdivisions. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Exempts certain voluntary annexations from boundary commission review in St. Louis County. The annexation is not prohibited by the existence of an established unincorporated area;

(2) Changes the laws regarding the formula for distributing to cities in St. Louis County the county sales tax imposed under Sections 66.600 to 66.630, RSMo, and the special municipal sales tax imposed under Section 94.850 and authorizes St. Louis County, upon voter approval, to impose a sales tax of up to .5% for law enforcement services; and

(3) Authorizes two or more municipalities located in first or second class counties that are not contiguous but are separated by a distance of not more than one mile, are connected by at least two publicly maintained rights-of-way, and have entered into an intergovernmental agreement related to municipal services to consolidate under Sections 72.150 to 72.220. Currently, this provision only applies to the cities of Holts Summit and Lake Mykee.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will solve a long-standing annexation issue in the City of Eureka, the bill language has been negotiated and agreed upon by the city and the county, and it will save money by avoiding litigation.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Schatz and City of Eureka.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.