

HB 969 -- Missouri Law Enforcement District Act

Sponsor: Franklin

Currently, any county of the first classification without a charter form of government and a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less may establish a law enforcement district under the provisions of the Missouri Law Enforcement District Act. This bill authorizes any county of the first classification to establish a district and specifies that two areas may be considered contiguous if both are adjacent to the shoreline of the same body of water. If any real property owner or registered voter within the proposed district does not sign the petition or file an entry of appearance and waiver of service of process, a copy of the petition must be served upon the owner or voter. He or she may object to the petition by filing a timely written answer.

The district may impose, upon voter approval of at least four-sevenths of the registered voters, an annual property tax rate in an amount not to exceed 30 cents per \$100 assessed valuation; however, if the district does not impose the maximum allowable amount after initial voter approval, the district must obtain voter approval for any subsequent increase in the property tax rate. A new method for repealing the district property tax is specified in the bill.