

HB 944 -- PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

SPONSOR: Curtis

This bill specifies that any attorney elected to the position of county prosecuting attorney after December 31, 2015, is prohibited from serving more than two four-year terms.

Whenever the governing body of St. Louis County receives a petition, signed by a number of registered voters of the county equal to at least 15% of the number of registered voters of the county voting in the last gubernatorial election, expressing poor public perception in the county prosecuting attorney's office or that the office acted unfairly, 10% of the county prosecuting attorney's office budget must be deducted from its budget during the next fiscal year. Moneys deducted from the budget must go into a fund and be used to establish community outreach programs with the county prosecuting attorney's office.

The bill creates in the state treasury the "Public Perception Fund," which consists of money collected under these provisions. The State Treasurer is the custodian of the fund and may approve disbursements. The fund is to be a dedicated fund and, upon appropriation, money in the fund must be used solely for the administration of these provisions. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium will not revert to the credit of the General Revenue Fund and the State Treasurer must invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on the investments must be credited to the fund.

The county prosecuting attorney in any county and any assistant prosecuting attorney employed full-time must receive an annual salary equal to the compensation of a member of the General Assembly. Any part-time prosecuting attorney must receive an annual salary of no more than \$30,000 per year.