

HB 1454 -- OVERDUE PROPERTY FINES

SPONSOR: Butler

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

This bill allows a city to include unrecovered costs or property fines delinquent for more than one year on the property owner's real property tax bill or on a special tax bill and be collected in the same manner and procedure for collecting real estate taxes.

This bill is similar to HB 559 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow the City of St. Louis to collect property fines more quickly. Additionally, if just left as a lien on the property it could be there for an extended length of time until the property sells, and often at that time it would be negotiated down quite a bit, impacting the city.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Butler; Missouri Municipal League; City of St. Louis; Denton US LLP; and St. Louis County Municipal League.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the city already has the ability to impose a special tax lien that gets collected with the property taxes. The question of when the lien arises is not detailed.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Land Title Association.