

HCS HB 1675 -- VACANCIES IN COUNTY ELECTED OFFICES

SPONSOR: Muntzel

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

This bill requires the county commission in all noncharter counties to immediately fill, by appointment, a vacancy in a county elected office to serve until the Governor makes an appointment or until the vacancy is filled by operation of another provision of law. In counties with only two county commissioners, the presiding commissioner will make the appointment. The bill also clarifies that the person appointed by a county commission as prosecuting attorney or assistant prosecuting attorney only serves until the Governor makes an appointment under Section 105.050, RSMo.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that a delay in appointing a county official can cause numerous problems for the county, taxing districts within the county, and the citizens of the county, especially in counties in which the county officer might not have any staff.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Muntzel and Paul Davis, Cooper County.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.