

HB 1442 -- COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Alferman)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Local Government

This bill sets a 60-day time limit for the Governor to fill a vacancy in the Office of County Commissioner with the advice and consent of the Senate. The vacancies filled by appointment will be held by the appointee for the remainder of the term. The bill does not apply to any county that has adopted a charter for its own government under Article VI, Section 18 of the Missouri Constitution.

The bill also requires the county commission in all noncharter counties to fill by appointment, within 14 days, 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, when there is the absence of an agreement, the presiding judge of the circuit court will make the appointment. The offices of prosecuting attorney and circuit attorney are excluded from this provision.

The bill provides a method by which distributions from the statutory county recorder's fund will be allocated among counties if collections fall below distributions.

Currently, Missouri landowners have the right to have, use, and own private water systems and ground source systems any time and anywhere unless prohibited by city ordinances. This bill specifies that this includes systems for potable water and rainwater collection and removes the ability for cities to prohibit the use through a city ordinance.