

HCS HB 856 -- CONDUCT OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES

SPONSOR: Deaton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Downsizing State Government by a vote of 5 to 3.

This bill requires that any entity created pursuant to Section 70.220, RSMo, must be treated as a for-profit corporation if it provides services to any individual, entity, or political subdivision in excess of its initial purpose. The Department of Revenue may implement these provisions.

This bill also specifies that the state and any political subdivision thereof can only offer a good or service for rent or purchase to the public in certain circumstances if a private business offers substantially the same good or service. No revenue collected from such rental or purchase shall be used to fund the offering of any other good or service offered by the state or political subdivision or transferred into any other account.

This bill is similar to HB 1975 (2018) and HB 928 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will stop the government from competing with private businesses. Private businesses should not have to compete with the government because the government does not always have to follow the rules, they don't have to pay taxes on their goods and services. Everyone should be on a level playing field.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Deaton; the Associated Industries of Missouri; and Omnigo.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the language in the bill is too vague. The department said there are no entities we know of that are registered under Section 70.220.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Revenue.

This bill is similar to HB 1975 (2018) and HB 928 (2017).