

HCS HB 1701 -- PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

SPONSOR: Reedy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1701.

This bill adds certain cities and villages to the list of cities and villages authorized to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to one-half of one percent for public safety purposes, including expenditures on equipment, city and village employee salaries and benefits, and facilities for police, fire and emergency medical providers.

Currently, the only additional cities described in Section 94.900 are Branson West, Smithville, Kearney, and Hallsville, and the only additional cities described in Section 94.902 are Clinton, Lincoln, and Claycomo.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that some cities cannot afford to hire and keep law enforcement officers and regular staff. This bill would let the voters decide if that is important to them.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Reedy and Richard Shields.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that a property tax, not a sales tax, should be used to fund law enforcement.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie C. "AC" Dienoff.