

HCS HB 1932 -- VERIFICATION OF TAX PAYMENTS

SPONSOR: Baringer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elections and Elected Officials by a vote of 7 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 1932.

This bill requires a person who files as a candidate for election to a public office that performs county functions in St. Louis City to provide appropriate copies of paid tax receipts or no tax due statements. This bill authorizes election authorities in the City of St. Louis who discover noncompliance with tax payments during their candidate qualification screening under Section 115.306, RSMo, to file a complaint with the Department of Revenue if a delinquency is discovered and to not allow the candidate's name to be placed on a ballot within the city until any ethics complaint has been resolved.

This bill is the similar to HB 1146 (2019).

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 everyone should pay their taxes. Currently, a candidate just signs an affidavit stating all taxes are paid. It then takes a complaint to get a candidate off the ballot. This bill requires candidates to provide paid receipts if the City of St. Louis can't verify all taxes are paid before the candidate can file.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Baringer and Gregory F.X. Daly.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say proper tools need to be in place before requiring the shift of roles on the burden of proof from candidate to county clerk.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Elected Officials.