

HJR 77 -- PROPERTY TAX

SPONSOR: Eggleston

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

REAL PROPERTY

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment provides that the amount by which the assessed values of real property may increase over the assessed value of such property from the previous assessment may be limited by law.

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Currently, Missouri's Constitution requires rollbacks in property tax levies in certain situations. Additionally, the Kansas City Public Schools are exempt from this provision in the Constitution.

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment would remove the exemption for Kansas City Public Schools and would have the levy's rate change at which the district would receive the same amount of property tax revenue from its operating levy that the district received in the 2018 tax year.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow statutory changes to limit the growth in assessed value of real property. Additionally, supporters claim that Kansas City Public Schools are not subject to the same rollbacks required of every other political subdivision in Missouri's Constitution and this amendment would make it fair across the state.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Eggleston.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that limiting assessments would make the process unequal.

It was also claimed that this amendment could significantly reduce the operating levy of Kansas City Public Schools since there has not been a vote to increase the tax levy for some time. Additionally, opponents said that the current exemption for the Kansas City Public Schools was created in response to a desegregation and this amendment could possibly lead to the case being reopened.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri State Council of Fire

Fighters; School Administrators Drive; Missouri National Education Association; The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City; and Kansas City Public Schools.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that this amendment could possibly bring up significant issues considering the current levy for Kansas City Public Schools was placed in the Constitution in order to resolve a previous desegregation case in federal court.

Testifying on the bill was St. Louis Public Schools.