

HCS HB 553 -- RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (Hicks)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Public Safety

This bill repeals the requirement that the Attorney General reside at the seat of government.

The bill also provides that, for a city of the fourth classification with no more than 2,000 inhabitants, if a statute or ordinance authorizes the mayor to appoint a member of a local board or commission, any requirement that the appointed person be a resident of the city will be deemed satisfied if the person owns real property or a business in the city, regardless of whether the position to which the appointment is made is considered an officer of the city.

The bill also provides that, for a city of the fourth classification with no more than 2,000 inhabitants, if a statute or ordinance authorizes the mayor to appoint a member of a board that manages a municipal utility, any requirement that the appointed person be a resident of the city will be deemed satisfied only if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The board has no authority to set utility rates or to issue bonds;
- (2) The person resides within five miles of the city limits;
- (3) The person owns real property or a business in the city;
- (4) The person or the person's business is a customer of a public utility, as described under Section 91.450, RSMo managed by the board; and
- (5) The person has no pecuniary interest in, and is not a board member of, any utility company that offers the same type of service as a utility managed by the board.

The bill also specifies that no employee of a political subdivision of this state, subject to exceptions, can be required to reside within a particular jurisdiction as a condition of employment.

Finally, the bill amends the definition of "employer" for the purposes of the "Whistleblower's Protection Act" to include law enforcement agencies.

This bill repeals residency provisions related specifically to the City of St. Louis.