

HCS HB 572 -- LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITIES

SPONSOR: Haffner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Small Business by a vote of 12 to 5. Voted "Return to the Committee of Origin" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 572.

This bill defines a "local public health agency" as any county health center board established under Chapter 205, RSMo., a county health department, a combined city and county health department or agency, a multi-county health department or agency, or any other county health authority.

The bill provides that any order, ordinance, rule, or regulation made or promulgated by an entity within the definition of a local public health agency will not become effective until approved by:

- 1) The County Commission for the County Health Center Board or County Health Department;
- 2) The County Commission, municipal governing body, and municipal elected executive official, for the combined city and county health department or agency;
- 3) Each County Commission, for the multi-county health department or agency;
- 4) The County Commission, any other governing body with jurisdiction over the county health authority, and any local elected executive official with jurisdiction over the county health authority, for any county health authority not included within the definition of local public health agency.

The bill requires that all orders, ordinances, rules, and regulations be submitted for review to all governing bodies or officials from which approval is required as listed above, and approval or disapproval must occur as soon as practicable.

This bill adds any person, business, firm, corporation, or association to the list that shall not have any order, ordinance, rule, or regulation that is inconsistent, more stringent, or have any longer duration than existing provisions, as specified in the bill.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill breaks down each health department based on how they are created. Most public health agencies were formed under Chapter 205, RSMo., which permits counties to pass property taxes to support the local public health center which has an elected board of trustees who set policy for their agencies. Locally elected bodies such as county commissions, city or county councils govern the majority of the remaining local public health agencies. This bill deals with each health board and fixes each individual board in the correct way. Communication is lacking on several levels and this will help to get the proper communication moving.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haffner; Tyler Nitsche; and Missouri Retailers Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill is overreaching the states authority. It is important to keep these local public health issues at the local level because they know what is proper for their community.

Testifying against the bill were Todd Shaffer, MD, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; Sarah Michaels, DO, Missouri Academy of Family Physicians; Clay Goddard, Missouri Center For Public Health Excellence; Mike Herbert, Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agency; Mike Herbert, Miller County Health Center; Georganne Syler, Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center.