

HCS HB 648 -- EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPONSOR: Hurlbert

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- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 648.

This bill repeals a provision of law that prohibits an emergency services board in a county with a charter form of government and with more than 200,000 but fewer than 350,000 inhabitants from imposing a sales tax for emergency services or for providing central dispatching for emergency services greater than one-quarter of one percent. If the tax was greater than that amount on July 9, 2019, the Board was required to lower the tax rate. Upon enactment, this provision only applied to Jefferson County.

Currently, certain fire protection districts in certain counties are authorized to impose a sales tax to provide revenues for operation of the fire protection district. The bill changes the description of one of the counties listed to reflect that it is now a charter county. Upon enactment, the description that includes Clay County will be updated.

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 the description for Clay County needs updated.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Hurlbert; and Kevin Pratt, Kearney Fire And Rescue.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that government services should be paid for by property taxes.

Testifying in person against the bill was Arnie C. Dienhoff.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.