

HS HB 267 -- COUNTY GOVERNMENT (Smith, 118)

This substitute authorizes any county without a charter form of government to adopt ordinances, resolutions, and regulations related to its property, affairs, and government that are not governed by the constitution or state statute. If a county passes an ordinance that conflicts with a municipal ordinance, the municipal ordinance overrides the county ordinance within the corporate boundaries of the municipality. The General Assembly has the power to further define, broaden, limit, or otherwise regulate the power of a county to adopt any ordinance, resolution, or regulation. The county may submit any ordinance, resolution, or regulation to the voters for approval. The substitute also allows a petition to be submitted by a qualified voter to the governing body of the county proposing an ordinance, resolution, or regulation. The petition must be signed by 15% of qualified voters. Upon the filing of a valid petition, the governing body of the county must place the question on the ballot at the next general election for approval or rejection.

All counties are authorized to appoint persons to fill any position in any department governed by the county and may also fix the compensation of the position. The governing body is also authorized to provide health insurance, life insurance, retirement plans, and workers' compensation.

The substitute also deletes certain statutes regarding the current operation of county governments.

Currently, only St. Louis, St. Charles, Greene, Jefferson, Franklin, Cass, Marion, Stone, Lincoln, Stoddard, and Warren counties and the City of St. Louis may seek voter approval to levy a sales tax for purposes of establishing a community children's services fund. This substitute allows any county in the state and the City of St. Louis to seek voter approval for this sales tax.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.