

SB 176 -- POLITICAL SUBDIVISION ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Vogel (Deeken)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elections by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill allows Cole County to elect a sheriff, due to a vacancy in the office, at the general municipal election in April rather than at a special election in March as current law requires. This provision expires June 1, 2005.

The City of Poplar Bluff is authorized, upon voter approval, to impose a sales tax not to exceed 0.5% of all retail sales within the county to be used solely for funding economic development projects approved by the voters, including a transportation corporation.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Income to the General Revenue Fund of \$0 or Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. Income to this fund depends on whether voters would approve a sales tax. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of \$0 in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will save Cole County the additional cost of holding a special election two weeks before the general municipal election and allow the City of Poplar Bluff to place an important tax levy for transportation development on the general municipal election ballot.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Vogel; Representative Kingery; Cole County Clerk; Cole County Commission; and Scott Faughn.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst