

HB 1711 -- EMERGENCY SERVICES BOARD IN CHRISTIAN COUNTY

SPONSOR: Weter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires Christian County, upon voter approval of a county sales tax for central dispatching of emergency services, to appoint a seven-member board including the heads of any of the county's fire protection districts, any of the county's ambulance districts, any of the police departments in the county, any of the county's emergency management organizations, and the county sheriff, or their respective designee, to administer the funds and oversee the provision of emergency services.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are two separate 911 call centers in Christian County which creates a lot of operational confusion and is unnecessarily costly. The bill will eliminate the confusion and extra cost, and reconstituting the board with persons already in the emergency services field only makes sense.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Weter; Rance Duffy, Nixa Fire Protection District; James Bacon, Nixa Police Department; Jeremy Whitehill, Christian County Sheriff's Office; and Missouri State Council of Firefighters.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.