

HB 1444 -- NOTICE REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS

SPONSOR: Jones (89)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill requires the governing body of any city, county, town, or village or any entity created by these political subdivisions to hold a public meeting and to allow public comment four business days prior to voting on an issue involving fee or tax increases, eminent domain, zoning, transportation development districts, capital improvement districts, commercial improvement districts, or tax increment financing. These provisions will not apply to any votes or discussions related to proposed ordinances that require a minimum of two separate readings on different days or in case of an emergency; and tax measures under these provisions will not include the setting of the annual tax rates in Sections 67.110 and 137.055, RSMo.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow local citizens to attend meetings concerning important economic issues such as eminent domain and taxes.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Jones (89).

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill and its larger companion bill, HB 1445, create complex rules that small cities may not be able to comply with because they are operated largely by unpaid volunteers. It is unjust to impose large fines for highly technical violations of the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Municipal League; and St. Louis County Municipal League.