

HB 1566 -- Civil Service Commissions in Political Subdivisions

Sponsor: Gray

This bill establishes a civil service commission to meet at least monthly in each political subdivision with a full-time paid fire department, fire protection district, or ambulance district organized under Chapter 321, RSMo. The qualifications of commission members and the powers and duties of the commission are specified, including establishing and administering competitive examinations for employment. The civil service will include all full-time paid employees of fire departments and fire protection districts, except that an appointed fire chief may be excluded by the political subdivision. Appointments and promotions within the fire departments and districts will be made solely on merit, efficiency, and fitness after an open competitive examination and impartial investigation. Reasons for termination are specified, including conviction of a misdemeanor or felony and mental or physical unfitness. Residency within the political subdivision cannot be required as a condition of employment. Non-probationary persons employed by fire departments and districts for at least six continuous months immediately preceding the effective date of the bill will be deemed permanently appointed without examination and can be demoted or removed only for cause upon written accusation.

The provisions of the bill will not apply to political subdivisions that already provide for substantially similar civil service in fire departments and districts or that subsequently provide for it by ordinance or charter provision. Political subdivisions must comply with the requirements of the bill within 90 days after its effective date. County prosecutors are required to enforce the deadline for the appointment of a commission through a writ of mandamus.