

HCS SS SB 226 -- EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPONSOR: Engler (Franz)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the on Committee on General Laws by a vote of 14 to 1.

This substitute changes the laws regarding emergency services. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Repeals the provisions regarding the process by which the Department of Health and Senior Services requests offsets and authorizes an entity designated by the Department of Revenue as a claim clearinghouse to process and verify requests for an offset only for ambulance service providers of taxpayer income tax refunds and lottery winnings to satisfy outstanding debts for ambulance services received. Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services processes claims submitted by hospitals and health care providers requesting an offset of income tax refunds to satisfy an outstanding debt owed by a taxpayer (Sections 143.789 and 143.790, RSMo);

(2) Authorizes any ambulance district established under Chapter 190 on or after August 28, 2011, with the exception of an ambulance district in St. Louis County to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to 0.5% in lieu of a property tax to fund the district. A petition to establish an ambulance district must state whether it will be funded by a property or a sales tax (Sections 190.015, 190.035, and 190.040);

(3) Establishes a procedure by which an ambulance district board member may be recalled from office by the registered voters of the member's election district. No board member can be recalled during the first or last 180 days of the member's current term or if a previous recall election was in the member's favor during the current term (Section 190.056); and

(4) Repeals a provision changing the term of office for fire protection district board members in St. Charles County from six to four years (Section 321.120).

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund of a cost of \$180,623 to an income of Unknown in FY 2012, a cost of \$178,098 to an income of Unknown in FY 2013, and a cost of \$179,934 to a cost of Unknown in FY 2014. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill provides a process to remove a board member of an ambulance district when warranted and allows an ambulance district to be formed by a vote of the

citizens that will be funded by sales taxes or property taxes, whichever the citizens prefer.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Engler; Andrew Umland, Missouri Emergency Services Association; Jerry Kirchhoff; John Fritz, Pettis County EMS Committee; and Frank Foster, MAA and EMS Legal Services.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.