

HCS HB 1179 -- VACANCIES IN COUNTY OFFICES

SPONSOR: Alferman

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elections by a vote of 10 to 2. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Local Government by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill specifies that if at the time a vacancy occurs in the office of county commissioner, clerk of the county commission, collector of revenue, county assessor, county treasurer, county auditor, county coroner, or county recorder, then it must be filled within 60 days with the appointment subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Procedures for senate advice and consent are found in Article IV, Section 51 of the Missouri Constitution.

These provisions must not apply to charter counties.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill gives the Senate some authority over county appointments in the same way that it has authority over agency and department appointments.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Alferman.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the bill could discourage volunteers for appointment to small county offices if the Senate were to reject numerous appointments over time.

Testifying on the bill was Boone County Missouri.