

HB 113 -- COUNTY HEALTH ORDINANCES

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 6 to 5.

Currently, both county commissions and county health center boards may make and establish orders, ordinances, rules or regulations under certain circumstances, but cannot conflict with any rules or regulations of the Department of Health and Senior Services or the Department of Social Services. This bill requires the county commission and the county health center board to be in concurrence when establishing health orders, ordinances, rules or regulations, except in the case of an emergency.

This bill is the same as HB 1823 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would require the county commission to approve the ordinances promulgated by the health center boards because some health center boards are not elected, and it would provide accountability to insure that health ordinances do not get out of control.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGaugh; Missouri Pork Association; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Missouri Corn Growers Association; and Missouri Soybean Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill would limit local control by not allowing a county to be stricter than the statutes and regulations of the Department of Natural Resources. Some counties do not feel that the state laws are protective enough of their citizens. This bill is more about insuring that the county commission has more power, and negating the will of the people who voted for the health board. Most county commissioners do not want this authority or responsibility.

Testifying against the bill were Kelley Volmar, Jefferson County Public Health; Jeff Jones; Roger Fischer; Steve Jeffrey, Jeffrey Law Group; Brian Smith; and the Missouri Association of Counties.