

HCS HB 229 -- ETHICS

SPONSOR: Dogan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill prohibits all types of lobbyists from giving gifts including food and beverages to local government officials, superintendents, school board members, members of governing bodies of charter schools, their staffs, and specified family members. Local government lobbyists may donate to events where all members of a particular political subdivision or all members of the General Assembly are invited.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that local government officials should be held to the same standard as statewide elected officials.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dogan and Empower Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that it is not the lobbyists but elected officials who let themselves be influenced by them that need to be regulated.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Society Of Governmental Consultants.