

HCS HB 495 -- PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX

SPONSOR: Bondon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Return to the Committee of Origin" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 4.

This bill adds certain cities to the list of cities authorized to impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to 0.5% for the purpose of improving public safety, including expenditures on equipment, employee salaries and benefits, and facilities for police, fire, and emergency medical providers.

For the newly authorized cities, the sales tax will expire in five years unless approved again by the voters, and if the sales tax fails on the first ballot, the cities cannot put the issue on the ballot again with statutory reauthorization.

Currently, the authorization for the additional cities only applies to the City of Peculiar.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the city could benefit from the additional revenue stream but it should not be allowed to continuously put the issue on the ballot if it fails.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bondon and the Missouri Municipal League.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

This bill is similar to HA 3 to HCS SB 676 (2016).