

HCS HB 704 -- PROTESTS OF ASSESSED TAXES

SPONSOR: Gregory

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 4 to 2.

Currently, taxpayers are allowed to receive interest on refunded property taxes protested or disputed, and that have been distributed by the collector to appropriate taxing authorities, at a rate equivalent to the rate of interest such taxes would have earned if held by the collector. This bill entitles such a taxpayer to receive interest at a rate calculated by the State Treasurer and applied by the Director of the Department of Revenue.

The bill waives any sovereign or official immunity otherwise applicable to the taxing authorities and the collector for the purpose related to the provisions of this bill, and the taxpayer may seek an order enforcing the provisions of this bill from the circuit court that originally ordered the distribution of the protested or disputed funds, or directly from the state tax commission, if the tax appeal that resulted in the refund was heard and determined by the state tax commission.

This bill is similar to SB 300 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this would clarify the amount of interest owed for refunds and streamlines the appeal process. Some refunds to taxpayers have not had interest factored into refunds and some refunds have extremely low interest rates.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Gregory; Associated Industries of Missouri; and Property Assessment Review.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this holds collectors personally liable and refunds of interest should be more complex than one simple interest rate determined at the state level.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri County Collectors Association.