

HCS HB 803 -- DUTIES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Reedy

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

This bill specifies that a county treasurer may have access to any document in possession of a county official for the purposes of reviewing a warrant or that the treasurer deems relevant to his or her duties. It also removes a penalty for county officers involving the loss of office for any offenses involving specified duties to the county treasurer and Missouri Department of Revenue.

This bill is similar to SB 53 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help treasurers verify the proper expenditure of county funds which is typically done by electronic transfer using number codes. The county treasurer pledges a bond and is, therefore, personally liable for knowing the details of county transactions.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Reedy; and Becky Schofield, Missouri County Treasurers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the penalty of vacating office for a technical violation is probably far too severe.

Testifying on the bill was Kevin Merritt, Missouri Sheriffs' Association.