

HCS HB 1259 -- TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Stacy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 7 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1259.

This bill requires the circuit court to conduct transportation development district director elections in a manner similar to mail-in elections for any registered voters in a district.

Registered voters will be sent a mail-in ballot with an affidavit by the court after it receives voter information from an election authority, which election authority must provide the voter information to the court no later than the fourth Tuesday before the date for the mailing of the ballots. The court may conduct such elections where landowners are also eligible to vote under current law without the use of a mandatory mail-in ballot. Election days are specified in the bill and voter eligibility is determined by either land ownership or registration to vote 45 days prior to an election. The court can provide additional sites for receipt of the mail-in ballots. If the measure passes, the election authority will provide notice to the court which has authority to authorize the formation of the transportation development district.

This bill is similar to HB 30 (2019).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help increase voter turnout and ensure that individuals who live in a district will be able to easily vote. Currently, corporations or persons who are landholders can conduct elections on any day chosen by the court and there is no outreach by the court to residents who are voters.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Stacy; Dan Coffey; Missouri Retailers Association; John Murphy; Missouri Economic Development Financing Association; and Mark Anthony Jones.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the TDD does not charge for water; and the water company does not pay for the streetcar.

Testifying on the bill was the City of Kansas City and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.