

HB 158 -- COUNTY BODIES (Hudson)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Local Government

RECALL PROCEDURE FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNTY EXECUTIVES
(Sections 49.055, RSMo)

This bill establishes a petition procedure for recalling county commissioners, presiding county commissioners, and county executives in counties of the first classification. The commissioner or county executive to be recalled must have held office for at least six months and cannot be a candidate to succeed himself or herself at the election to fill the vacancy. Recall elections must also be held at least nine months before the end of a commissioner's or county executive's term.

The petition is required to have a number of signatures equal to at least 10% of the total number of registered voters in the county voting in the last election at which the commissioner or county executive was elected, and must state the reason for which the recall is sought: misconduct in office; incompetence; or failure to perform duties prescribed by law. Additional procedural requirements are set out in the bill.

At least 60% of the qualified voters voting on the question must vote for removal, otherwise the commissioner or county executive shall continue to serve for the remainder of the term.

PLANNING COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS (Section 64.805 and 64.870)

This bill increases the meeting fee for members of a county planning commission from not more than \$25 per meeting to not more than \$75 per meeting.

The bill also establishes a meeting fee for members of a county board of zoning adjustment of not more than \$75 per meeting.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS (Section 137.275)

County Boards of Equalization must promptly issue a receipt to a person lodging an appeal of a property assessment confirming that the appeal has been received. If the appeal is lodged in person, the receipt must be issued immediately. If the appeal is lodged via mail or electronically, the receipt must be issued within two business days.

COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMISSIONS (Sections 230.205)

Currently, a county that has adopted the Alternative County Highway

Commission under Sections 230.200 to 230.260, RSMo, may only abolish it by a vote of the people. This bill adds by a vote of the Governing Body as an additional method.

Currently, once abolished, or in counties that did not adopt the Alternative County Highway Commission, the county shall retain the County Highway Commission under Sections 230.010 to 230.110. This bill allows the county to adopt the County Highway Commission or the county road overseers provided under Sections 231.010 to 231.130.

CEMETERIES (Section 214.160 and 214.270)

County commissions are authorized to use a part of the principal of a cemetery trust fund for the support and maintenance of the cemetery when the net income of the trust fund is insufficient for those purposes.

The bill also adds the definition of "human and pet cemetery" to the provisions relating to cemeteries in the state, which allows for the creation of cemeteries in which both human remains and the remains of other creatures could be interred and memorialized at the discretion of the lot holder and according to the rules of the human and pet cemetery.