

HCS HB 807 -- ELECTED COURT CLERKS

SPONSOR: McGirl

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 807.

This bill authorizes elected circuit clerks to have general administrative authority over judicial personnel including deputy circuit clerks, division clerks, and other court personnel, but excluding court officials. An elected circuit clerk may appoint and remove deputy clerks and division clerks and establish salaries for such positions based upon salary ranges established by Missouri Supreme Court Administrative Rules. The assignment of clerks to particular judges and specified record keeping functions will also be under the purview of the circuit clerk.

The bill repeals various provisions authorizing the presiding judge or the entire circuit court to regulate court clerks and associated functions.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the circuit clerks, not judges, should have appointing authority over persons who will be working in the circuit clerk's office. The current statutes are out-of-date and need updated. Circuit clerks already are performing these "new" duties because of court consolidation, which was designed to relieve judges from these mundane employment issues.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGirl; Amber Boley, Missouri Circuit Clerk's Association; Jennifer A. Hotop; Julie Bova, Ste. Genevieve County Circuit Clerk; Melinda Gumm; Patty A. Krueger, President, Missouri Circuit Clerk Association; Eric Stallo, Missouri Circuit Clerks Association Past President; Sue Brown; Ashley Gum, Washington County Circuit Clerk; Ashley Thrasher, Buchanan County Circuit Clerk's Office; Becky Stanturf, Grundy County; Cheryl Crowder, 11th Judicial Circuit Court; Jill Kathleen Peck, Webster County Circuit Court; Christy Blakemore; Jo McElwee, Circuit Clerk, Camden County; Kim Mason; Lori Jones; Mechelee Lebow; Mitzi Shipley; Rebecca Uhlich; Robyn R. Schmidt,

Circuit Clerk; Tenia Hermann, State of Missouri Madison County Circuit Clerk; Twila Lee Halley; Vicki J. Weible; Charleen Biester; Elaine Wilson, Nodaway County Circuit Court; Jerri L Harrelson; Julie Whitsell, Dekalb County Circuit Clerk's Office; Kayla Getman; Marci Mosley, Texas County Circuit Clerk; Melinda Maberry, Barton County Circuit Clerk; Pamela Greunke, Gasconade County Circuit Clerk & Recorder of Deeds; Rachelle Beasley, Pulaski County Circuit Clerk; Sammye G. White; Sheila Curtman; Tim Beard; Vicki Book, Holt County Circuit Clerk; Arnie C. Dienoff; Tiffany Phillips; Thomas R. Barr; Karla Allsberry, Lincoln County Circuit Clerk; and Karen Harlan.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the legislature should stay out of it.

Testifying against the bill was David J. Klarich, Missouri Circuit Judges Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they were interested in what the committee and other witnesses had to say.

Testifying on the bill was Renee Reuter.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.