

HB 865 -- EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES

SPONSOR: Shields

This bill provides authorization for any county or city not within a county to levy a property tax to establish an early childhood education board which shall provide childhood education programs or services. The bill limits the levy to \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed valuation on real property and provides sample ballot language. The tax shall not go into effect unless approved by the qualified voters of such county or city. Under this bill, a childhood education board of directors shall consist of seven members with qualifications and structure of the board outlined in the bill. Boards established shall be empowered to establish or operate an early childhood education program or provide for early childhood education services for children under 5 years of age, with control and responsibilities outlined in the bill. The board will be determined a "political subdivision" and may impose limitations on children to be served and services to be provided, with the primary goal to expand and improve early childhood education services.