

HB 955 -- DIVISION OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

SPONSOR: Richey

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, no person will be appointed as an agent or inspector for the Department of Liquor Control, within the Department of Public Safety, who is not a resident taxpaying citizen of Missouri for a period of three years previous to his or her appointment and who is not able to pass a physical and mental examination prescribed by a board consisting of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and the Supervisor of Liquor Control.

This bill modifies this provision to provide that a person will not be appointed as an agent if he or she is not a resident taxpaying citizen of the state at the time of his or her appointment. Additionally, the person must pass a physical and mental examination prescribed by the Supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco.

This bill changes "Supervisor of Liquor Control" and "Department of Liquor" to "Supervisor of Alcohol and Tobacco Control" and "Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control."

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this targets what has been in statute for a long time and it is antiquated, it has provided a challenge to staffing, and it requires a three-year residency in Missouri before you can be appointed to the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco. This bill removes it. The current statute goes back to the times of prohibition and there was a concern about outside forces that could come in and control what was happening in Missouri so they wanted people living in Missouri. The bill does still have a requirement that the people be residents of Missouri at the time of their appointment.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Richey.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill submitted written testimony, which can be found online.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie C. Dienoff.

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.