

SB 655 -- MISSOURI LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Crawford (Pike)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Pensions by a vote of 8 to 0. Vote "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, political subdivisions located in third class counties and Cape Girardeau County may, by majority vote of the governing body, elect to cover certain employee classes as public safety personnel members in the Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LAGERS). This bill removes this restriction and allows any political subdivision to cover such employee classes. This bill is the same as SB 634, HB 1473 (2022), and HB 1298 (2021).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this system currently covers about 60,000 employees and is 95% funded. This language provides an equal opportunity for local governments across the state to be on par with larger cities and other entities. This bill will promote recruitment and retention at the local level.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Crawford; Arnie Dienoff,, Missouri Ambulance Association; Mo LAGERS; and Ray Antonacci , Lincoln County Ambulance District; and the Ambulance District Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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.