

HS HCS SS#2 SCS SB 96 -- Voting Procedures

SPONSOR: Koenig

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Tax Reform by a vote of 8 to 3. Motion to "Do Pass-failed" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote 2 to 6. Voted "To Reconsider" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a voter of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill relates to voting procedures.

This bill specifies that an ordinance to establish a district must be adopted by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the governing body of the municipality in which the district would sit if the proposed funding mechanism to establish the district includes a sales tax. Before construction or funding of any project, a district must submit the proposed project to the commission for its prior approval, which will require an at least two-thirds majority vote if the funding mechanism for the project includes a sales tax.

The bill also reinstates the presidential preference primary election, to be held statewide on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April of each presidential election year. Anyone who files a request to be included on the presidential primary ballot is not prohibited from filing or appearing on any ballot as a party candidate for nomination to another office.

The bill specifies that on or before the 10th Tuesday prior to the date of the presidential preference primary, the Secretary of State shall announce the official list of presidential candidates for each established political party.

All costs of a presidential preference primary shall be paid by the state, except that costs shall be shared proportionately by the state and any political subdivisions and special districts holding an election on the same day as any such primary. For any county with more than 500 polling places, the state shall assist in assuring adequate poll workers and equipment.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are currently over 2,000 taxing districts in the state of Missouri because cities find it

too difficult to pass tax increases through voter-approved measures. By requiring a two-thirds vote to approve such a taxing district, far fewer of them would come into existence. Also, supporters say that elected officials create Boards of Trustees to oversee and implement the proposed community improvement district ("CID") and often, the members of the board of the proposed CID have a direct economic interest in bringing the CID into existence.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Koenig; and Missouri Retailers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under House Testimony on Senate Bills on the House website.