

HCS HB 1726 -- BONDS (O'Donnell)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Financial Institutions

This bill specifies that bonds, notes, or other forms of indebtedness may be issued in book-entry rather than bearer form and bear interest at the current rate of 10% or at a rate up to 250 basis points above the longest maturity United States Treasury bond, whichever is greater. Such bonds may be sold at a competitive market yield not less than 50% rather than the current 95% of the par value. Such bonds may bear interest at 14% or at a rate up to 250 basis points above the longest maturity United States Treasury bond, whichever is greater, if sold at the lowest true interest cost bid received.

The bill specifies similar requirements for industrial development revenue bonds, bonds issued by any housing authority, and revenue bonds issued for airport purposes. The bill repeals the current language which provides for a political subdivision to have an unenhanced bond rating of AA+ or higher or comparable rating, and replaces it with a bond rating that is one of the two highest long-term ratings or the highest short-term rating issued by a nationally recognized rating agency on its outstanding general obligation. The principal amount of general obligation bonds, currently \$12.5 million, is increased to \$20 million.