

HCS HB 2286 -- RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

SPONSOR: Taylor (48)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Rural Community Development by a vote of 7 to 0. Voted "Do Pass- Consent" by the Standing Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 5 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2286.

The bill specifies that, for a city of the fourth classification with less than 3,000 inhabitants, if a statute or ordinance authorizes the mayor to appoint a member of a local board or commission, any requirement that the appointed person be a resident of the city will be deemed satisfied if the person owns real property or a business in the city, regardless of whether the position to which the appointment is made is considered an officer of the city.

The bill also specifies that, for a city of the fourth classification, if a statute or ordinance authorizes the mayor to appoint a member of a board that manages a municipal utility, any requirement that the appointed person be a resident of the city will be deemed satisfied only if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The board has no authority to set utility rates or to issue bonds;
- (2) The person resides within five miles of the city limits;
- (3) The person owns real property or a business in the city;
- (4) The person or the person's business is a customer of a public utility, as described under Section 91.450, RSMo managed by the board; and
- (5) The person has no pecuniary interest in, and is not an employee or a board member of, any utility company or other entity that offers the same type of service as a utility managed by the board.

This bill is similar to HB 516 (2023).

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that often it is hard to get city residents to serve on these boards and with vacancies it is hard to get a quorum to conduct business. This bill would allow for people who have a vested interest but do not live in the city to serve on the boards.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Taylor; and the Missouri Municipal League.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they would like to see language added to the bill relating to conflicts of interest. The leadership from another utility should not be able to sit on a utility board.

Testifying in person on the bill was the Missouri Public Utilities Alliance.

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