

HCS HJR 68 & 79 -- CHARTER COUNTIES

SPONSOR: Stacy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Property Tax Reform by a vote of 26 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1 with 1 present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HJR 68.

Currently, the Constitution requires all county assessors, except the assessor of Jackson County, to be elected officers. Upon voter approval, this resolution eliminates that exemption.

This bill is similar to HJR 21 from 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 this bill would allow Kansas City citizens the opportunity to elect their assessor, which would put the city back in line with most of the rest of the state. In a representative government, the people should have the right to vote on all of the officials who represent them. If the assessor in Kansas City is elected, that person would have to face the scrutiny of the voters. This in turn will create further incentive for the assessor to perform his or her duties to the fullest.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Stacy and Sean Smith.

OPPOSERS: 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 Testimony on the bill page on the House website.