

HCS HB 249 -- COUNTY OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Reedy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 249.

Currently, any second class county can increase the annual compensation of a county coroner by up to \$14,000 upon a majority approval of the salary commission. This bill allows any county not having a charter form of government to do this.

The bill also allows the salary commission of any third class county to modify the base schedules for the computation of salaries for county officials authorized in statute, as specified in the bill.

This bill allows the county auditor of first class counties to audit and examine claims of every kind for which a county officer has a fiduciary duty.

Currently, statute sets the annual salary of the county sheriff in first or second class counties at 80% of the compensation of an associate circuit judge in the county. This bill exempts any first class county with more than 150,000 but fewer than 200,000 inhabitants from this provision. Upon enactment, this will apply to Boone County.

This bill allows the coroner of any county not having a charter form of government to receive a salary adjustment, as specified in the bill.

Currently, if the office of sheriff becomes vacant, the county coroner fills the role until a new sheriff fills the office. This bill allows the coroner to receive the same compensation as the county sheriff, rather than the county coroner, during that time.

This bill provides that every public administrator who begins his or her first term on or after January 1, 2024, will receive compensation as provided in statute. The bill allows a salary commission to compensate a public administrator based on the assessed valuation schedule set in statute. If a salary commission decides to do so, it will not change at any future time the method of compensating the public administrator.

This bill is similar to HB 2588 (2024).

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that these small, noncontroversial changes to State law would improve conditions for county officials and services for county residents. The bill would modernize the tax sale process, auditors would have more comprehensive access to records of county officials, and provisions for public administrators appropriately balance public scrutiny and discretion for their clients.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Reedy; Missouri Association of Counties; Missouri County Collectors Association; Missouri Association of Public Administrators; Missouri Association of County Auditors.

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 Testimony on the bill page on the House website.