

HCS HB 1268 -- TAXES FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

SPONSOR: Violet

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 9 to 0 with 5 voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1268.

Currently, upon voter approval, ambulance districts and fire protection districts are authorized to impose a sales tax of up to 0.5% in all every county except for St. Louis, St. Charles, Clay, Platte, and Greene. An ambulance district or fire protection district imposing a sales tax authorized by this section must reduce any property tax levy imposed by the district or political subdivision for the purposes of providing ambulance and fire protection services such that the revenue generated by the property tax levy is offset in an amount equal to 50% of the amount of revenue generated by the sales tax imposed pursuant to this bill.

This bill repeals statutory language prohibiting ambulance districts and fire protection districts in St. Louis, St. Charles, Clay, Platte, and Greene counties from submitting this tax authorization to voters.

This bill is similar to SB 33 (2025).

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 reducing property taxes while increasing sales taxes for fire and ambulance services has been popular in the areas in which it has been authorized and approved. This makes sense especially in an area with a large transient population in which, otherwise, residents would be subsidizing these services for visitors. This is working well in every other county and there isn't a practical reason these areas are excluded.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Violet; Jason Hoevelmann, Florissant Valley Fire Protection District; Skip Stephens, Cottleville Fire Protection District; Tom Vineyard, Missouri Association of Career Fire Protection Districts; Kelly Cope, St. Charles County Ambulance District; Ambulance District Association of Missouri; and Missouri Ambulance 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 Testimony on the bill page on the House website.