

SS SB 1 -- COUNTY OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Crawford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 9 to 0.

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 the same as HCS HB 249 (2025).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that these changes to State law would allow for salary increases for county officials, clarify certain of their abilities and responsibilities, and improve outcomes for county residents.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Crawford; Missouri Association of Counties; The Penman Group, Missouri Association of Public Administrators; Arnie Dienoff; Jimmy Laughlin, Missouri Association o 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.