

## SS SB 1 -- COUNTY OFFICIALS

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 (Section 50.327, RSMo & 58.095).

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 (Section 55.160).

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 (Section 57.317).

Currently, if the office of sheriff becomes vacant, the county coroner fills the role until a new sheriff takes office. This bill allows the coroner to receive the same compensation authorized for the county sheriff, rather than the county coroner salary, during the time he or she is acting as the county sheriff (Section 58.200).

The bill provides that public administrators in second, third, and fourth class counties, who began their first terms 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. The bill further clarifies that letters of guardianship and letters of conservatorship will be counted as separate letters for the purpose of calculating compensation under this section (Section 473.742).