

HB 2693 -- WATER RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Steinmeyer

This bill specifies that creation of a port authority by a county only precludes creation of a port authority by a city within that county if the county port authority was created first. (Section 68.010)

Currently the boundaries of a port district must be approved by the Highways and Transportation Commission. This bill requires that if a port authority purchases or leases certain real property located within adjoining municipalities or states, the real property will be included within the port district as specified in the bill. (Section 68.015)

Powers of port authorities are also modified as specified in the bill, including the grant of powers for the establishment of port rangers licensed as peace officers, contracting with other port authorities, and, in certain port authorities, for creation of housing authorities, clearing land for redevelopment, planned industrial expansion, and urban redevelopment as provided by law for other political subdivisions. (Section 68.025)

This bill prohibits the use of certain state funds for housing authority purposes.

The bill also specifies that appropriations to a department or office may be provided by the department or office to a port authority as an advance rather than on a reimbursement basis, subject to certain assurances the funds will be used for their designated purpose; or that the department or office may deposit the funds with a financial institution or escrow agent, to be disbursed as specified in the bill. Any moneys advanced to the port authority that are not spent within five years will be returned to the State. (Section 68.035)

The bill provides that failure of a port authority to include a statement that the state is not liable on bonds of a port authority as required by law must not invalidate the bonds or render the state liable on the bonds. (Section 68.040)

Currently, a port authority must structure the commissioners terms so that no more than three members' terms expire in any one year. This bill adds that each member will continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

Currently, the legislative body or county commission of the county or city creating the port authority or the legislation body for St. Louis City, for a port authority created in St. Louis City, determines the method of appointment, qualifications, salaries, powers and duties of port authority commission.

The bill specifies that if the legislative body or county commission fails to establish the qualifications, salaries, powers, and duties prior to appointment, the board of port authority commissioners may elect to do so under the port authority's bylaws.

Before a member can be removed from a port authority commission, as specified in the bill, the port authority commission is required to give notice of and hold a public hearing, unless the notice and hearing are waived by the member. (Section 68.045)

The bill modifies port authorities' contracting processes for work, equipment, and supplies and materials, and provides that port authorities may utilize additional procurement measures authorized for other political subdivisions, as specified in the bill. (Section 68.055)

Port authority expenditures over \$75,000, rather than over \$25,000, including professional services contracts, must be competitively procured. The bill requires at least 20 days notice of the letting of the contract, with publication as specified in the bill. Port authorities shall have the authority to reject any and all bids, and re-advertise the work or proposed purchase. (Section 68.057)

The bill provides that political subdivisions with existing port authorities can not form regional port authorities themselves, but that the boards of existing port authorities may apply to the Highways and Transportation Commission for approval of a regional port authority, as specified in the bill. (Section 68.060)

The definition of "new job" in the Advanced Industrial Manufacturing Zones Act is modified to include any job determined by the Department of Economic Development to be eligible for, and approved for, retention of withholding tax under the Missouri Works Program, provided that the establishment of the AIM zone immediately follows the end of the period of benefits under the Missouri Works Program. (Section 68.075)

Certain records and documents regarding a business prospect submitted to a port authority may be deemed closed records, and

disclosure to a port authority will not affect records' status as closed. (Section 68.085)

The bill modifies the threshold for consent to the creation of a port improvement district, from 60% per capita to 50% per capita, of the owners of all real property within the boundaries of the proposed port improvement district. (Section 68.205)

This bill provides that a petition to the circuit court will not be required for creation of a port improvement district within port district boundaries or for substantial changes, as defined by law, to a port improvement district in certain circumstances. (Section 68.253)

This bill is similar to SB 1146 (2026).