

HB 2732 -- WATER SERVICE LINE FEES

SPONSOR: Violet

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently a city, town, village, sewer district, or water supply district may, upon voter approval, levy and impose annually upon water service lines providing water service to residential property within its territory, a fee.

The fee is capped at \$1 per month or \$12 annually.

This bill increases the maximum allowable fee to \$2 per month or \$24 annually.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that these fees allow cities to create cost sharing programs for residents who need repairs to water service lines. The costs of these repairs are significant so residents benefit from city financial support greatly. Any city desiring to increase this fee would need public support and voter approval in order to do so. Costs of labor and materials for this service have doubled since the rate of the fee was put into statute. This has resulted in a reduction in the amount cities are allowed to cover for their residents. This increase would allow cities to improve services and keep this program solvent for many years.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Violet; and William J Malach, City of St. Peters.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that these programs can function without fee increases. Political subdivisions are asking for too much money from their residents. Cities should cut funding to other programs instead of charging residents.

Testifying in person against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.

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.