

HB 2898 -- UNPAID TAXES AND FEES (Owen)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Local Government

Currently, under Section 140.982, RSMo, if a county establishes a land bank agency, the members of the first board of directors must be appointed within 90 days, and if an appointing authority does not make a required appointment on time, the appointment will be made by the county council.

This bill repeals this provision and allows the county council to provide for the qualifications for members of the board of directors as part of an establishing ordinance, resolution, or rule. The board of directors of the land bank agency will consist of seven members appointed by the county executive.

Current law provides that if an appointing authority fails to fill a vacancy within 60 days after a term expires, the county council will make the appointment.

This bill modifies how the county land bank board is appointed. Under the provisions of this bill, the seven-member board will be appointed by the county executive, who will be required to fill any vacancy within 60 days.

Currently, a county that elects to operate under alternative delinquent sale tax provisions may only include parcels with unpaid taxes that have been delinquent for at least two years. This bill removes the two-year delinquency requirement, allowing counties that opt-in to the alternative process to include delinquent parcels regardless of how long the taxes have remained unpaid.

Land bank agencies are currently prohibited from selling property to the original owner of the parcel or to certain close relatives of the original owner. This bill removes the prohibition on sales to relatives of the original owner, while maintaining other purchaser eligibility requirements.