

HB 3143 -- COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES SALES TAXES

SPONSOR: Parker

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

This bill allows the governing body of any county to impose a 0.25% sales tax for the purpose of funding senior services.

The tax authorized by this bill must be approved by voters of the county in order to be collected.

The bill allows the governing body of any county that has authorized the tax, and whose voters have approved the tax, to repeal the tax, subject to voter approval. The bill creates a petition process for the repeal of the tax as well.

Each county imposing the tax authorized by this bill must establish a senior services tax commission to administer the tax revenue dedicated to providing senior services. The commission will consist of seven members appointed by the county commission, which will determine the qualifications, terms of office, compensation, powers, duties, restrictions, procedures, and all other necessary functions of the senior services tax commission.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that local senior services funds can help fill gaps in resource provisions that are widening because of inflation, but they are currently stretched thin. The bill provides a practical and fiscally responsible solution to funding shortages for senior services. It gives communities across the state the authority to decide how to fund these services. This supports local control and flexibility for better responsiveness to issues facing local communities. The service provision on the front end can ultimately save communities a lot of money, as it costs a lot more money to place a senior in an assisted living facility than it does to treat that person in their home.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Parker; Missouri Special Districts Association; and Anna Thomas, Missouri Council on Aging.

OPPOSERS: 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.