

HB 1547 -- LICENSING OF GAMBLING BOATS

SPONSOR: Wood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Cultural Affairs by a vote of 11 to 6 with 1 present.

This bill requires a subsequent countywide vote to follow a favorable citywide vote authorizing the licensing of gambling boats not located on the Mississippi or Missouri rivers.

The provisions of the bill will not apply to any city which approved the licensing of gambling boats prior to the effective date of the bill.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that if a casino is built in the Branson area there may be a negative affect on the economic well-being of the county. The Branson area is well known for its family-oriented environment, and gambling might create enormous family, social, and economic problems.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wood; Missouri Eagle Forum; Branson/Lake Area Chamber of Commerce; Concerned Women for America of Missouri; Haven Howard; Missouri Family Network; and Presley's Incorporated.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is bad policy because it takes away the autonomy of cities. It would hinder an economic development project that would be beneficial to southwest Missouri.

Testifying against the bill were Southwest Gaming Corporation; Missouri Laborers; and Missourians for Economic Opportunity.

Robert Triplett, Legislative Analyst