

SB 156 -- PORT AUTHORITIES

SPONSOR: Shields (Richard)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill expands the purposes of port authorities in Missouri to include the promotion of development within the port district and expands their powers to include the ability to redevelop land and conduct land reclamation and resource recovery with respect to unimproved land, residential developments, commercial developments, and mixed-use developments.

Currently, port authorities may operate a recreational facility, industrial parks, terminals, and warehouses for five years if no private operators are available to do so. After five years, the authority must request competitive bids from private operators. This provision is removed and instead authorizes port authorities to enter into agreements with private operators or public entities for the joint development of property within the port district.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill gives the Kansas City Port Authority the flexibility it needs to develop the river front. They can use residential and commercial development for a mixed-use project. The bill clarifies the port authority's power to enter into agreements for both residential and commercial enterprises.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Shields; Port Authority of Kansas City; City of Kansas City; and the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst