

HCS HB 717 -- DISTRIBUTION OF GAMING COMMISSION FUNDS

SPONSOR: Day

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Veterans by a vote of 7 to 4.

This substitute changes the distribution of money in the Gaming Commission Fund. The remaining net proceeds in the fund for each fiscal year be distributed as follows:

(1) The amount transferred to the Missouri College Guarantee Fund and the Missouri National Guard Trust Fund will remain at their current levels;

(2) The Veterans' Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund will receive the second \$11 million portion for Fiscal Year 2008, the second \$16 million portion for Fiscal Year 2009, and the second \$21 million portion for Fiscal Year 2010 and each subsequent year; and

(3) The provision requiring \$3 million to be transferred to the Veterans' Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund when the Gaming Commission Fund annually exceeds \$28 million is repealed.

Each fiscal year, total revenues to the Gaming Commission Fund for the preceding fiscal year must be annually compared by October 1 to the total expenditures and transfers from the fund for the preceding fiscal year. The Missouri Gaming Commission must notify the Office of Administration of the comparison by November 1 before the proceeds in the fund can be distributed.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that with the current distribution of money from this fund the veterans' homes have empty beds and waiting lists. With the increase of veterans needing care, the capital improvement trust fund needs increased funding.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Day; and Dewey Riehn, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Missouri Department.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that cutting early childhood development funding is not the answer. There needs to be a way to provide more money to both of these underfunded programs. By cutting early childhood, education of these special populations will end up costing more. Early childhood intervention has shown a good return on the money spent.

Testifying against the bill were Candy Iverson, Missouri Childhood Development and Referral; Missouri National Education Association; Citizens for Missouri's Children; and Partnership for Children.