

HCS SB 166 -- TOURISM

SPONSOR: Griesheimer (Wood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding tourism. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires all information regarding promotional programs used to advertise, solicit, or sell any time-share period, plan, or property to be provided in writing to prospective buyers within a reasonable period of time prior to any scheduled sales presentation;
- (2) Designates the bobwhite quail as the official state game bird;
- (3) Designates the crayfish as the official state invertebrate;
- (4) Designates the three-toed box turtle as the official state reptile; and
- (5) Specifies that in Pulaski County, for the purpose of collecting a transient guest tax, the term "transient guest" means a person who occupies a room in a hotel or motel for 90 days or less during any calendar quarter.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there is currently no time frame during which full-disclosure must be made for time-share sale presentations. A uniform standard will be good for the industry, as well as the consumer. The bill is a consumer-protection measure and will ensure that all businesses selling time shares will act in the same manner.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Griesheimer; and American Resort Development Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.