SS SCS SB 225 -- HUNTING HERITAGE PROTECTION AREAS ACT

This bill establishes the Hunting Heritage Protection Areas Act which specifies that, subject to all applicable state, federal, and local laws in effect as of the effective date of the bill, the discharge of a firearm for hunting, sport, and all other lawful purposes will not be prohibited in specified protected areas. Protected areas will include all land located within the 100-year flood plain of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Areas exempt from the provisions of the bill include:

(1) Areas designated as urbanized by the 2000 United States Census;

(2) Land used by a facility that is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(3) Land used for the operation of a port of commerce or a customs port;

(4) Land within the city boundaries of Kansas City or St. Louis; and

(5) Land located within one-half mile of an interstate highway in existence on the effective date of the bill.

New tax increment financing (TIF) projects are prohibited in any hunting heritage protection area after the effective date of the bill, except for:

(1) Expanding the boundaries of existing TIF areas by no more than 5%;

(2) Improving existing flood or drainage protection; or

(3) Constructing or operating a renewable fuel production facility if no new development directly associated with the production of renewable fuel occurs as a result of the project.

TIF projects or districts approved prior to the effective date of the bill are allowed to make certain modifications.