

HCS HB 1929 -- EXCURSION GAMBLING BOAT LICENSEES

SPONSOR: Jones, 89 (Cooper, 120)

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

This substitute allows the Executive Director of the Missouri Gaming Commission to levy an appropriate administrative penalty against a holder of any gaming license who violates the provisions of Chapter 313, RSMo, including, but not limited to, a monetary penalty and suspension or revocation of a license. The executive director must report any administrative penalties to the commission on a regular basis.

The issuance of any new excursion gambling boat license prior to January 1, 2010, is prohibited.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of Unknown in FY 2009, Unknown in FY 2010, and \$0 in FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Missouri Gaming Commission arbitrarily fines member corporations and that the process for review of the fines needs to be reformed. The bill models review of fines after a prosecutorial claim recommendation.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cooper (120); and Missouri Gaming Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that casino revenues should not factor into the amount of fines assessed to casinos. The circumstances of the violations should dictate the fines. The Missouri Gaming Commission as a whole should deliberate and assess the fine instead of allowing the executive director as an individual to decide the fine.

Testifying against the bill were Casino Watch; and Missouri Family Network.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill described the current and proposed process of assessing gaming fines and the subsequent review of fines by the Missouri Gaming Commission.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Gaming Commission.