

HCS HB 2421 -- KANSAS CITY FESTIVAL DISTRICT LIQUOR SALES

SPONSOR: Richard (Meiners)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development by a vote of 7 to 0.

This substitute allows a Kansas City festival district promotional association to obtain a license to sell intoxicating liquor and nonintoxicating beer for consumption at the businesses and common areas within the festival district. The promotional association must conduct a public hearing on its plan regarding the festival and obtain written approval for the event from 75% of the property owners, business owners, and residents within the district.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$69,257 in FY 2009, \$58,041 in FY 2010, and \$59,809 in FY 2011. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow people who attend festivals in Kansas City to purchase alcohol at one establishment within the festival's boundary and take it with them as they walk throughout the festival, from one establishment to another. Currently, this can be done only in downtown Kansas City.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Meiners; Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce; City of Kansas City; and Jon Engelman, Westport Regional Business League.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say there aren't enough safeguards to ensure that minors aren't served alcohol or that enough security is provided. Alcohol abuse is the primary contributing factor to drug abuse, domestic violence, and crime in general. Closing off streets and allowing alcohol within them will lead to the street service of alcohol. The bill does not require people to drink within an establishment but allows them to walk outside, on the sidewalks, and in the streets within the festival's district. This will lead to people drinking on the street which could be very problematic.

Testifying against the bill were Cordish Company; Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission; and Missouri Family Network.