

HCS HB 1994 -- EXCURSION GAMBLING BOATS

SPONSOR: Zerr

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

Currently, tokens, chips, or other forms of credit can only be used for wagering on excursion gambling boats. This substitute allows them to be used to purchase food or beverages on the excursion gambling boat.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that since the repeal of the gambling loss limit in 2008, this provision of law is no longer necessary. Exchanging casino chips for food and beverages is common practice in other states. This will make it easier for the wait staff to conduct business on the casino floor since patrons will not be required to exit the boat to get cash to purchase food and drinks.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Zerr; Missouri Gaming Association; Missouri AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers District 11; Dave Morton, Unite Here; and AFT Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.