

HB 2297 -- Kansas City Zoological District

Sponsor: Molendorp

This bill authorizes the establishment of the Kansas City Zoological District which may be composed of the counties of Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte at the option of the voters of each county. Each member county may impose, upon voter approval, a sales tax of up to one-quarter of one cent for the financial support of zoological activities within the district. The district will be governed by a commission comprised of one member of the governing body of each county that is part of the district; one member of the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Parks and Recreation; and five members of the executive committee of the Friends of the Zoo, Incorporated, one of which will be the executive director.

The administrative expenses of the district incurred during the first six months after its creation must be appropriated to the commission by the member counties; thereafter, the district will be financed by the sales tax revenues collected and deposited into the newly created Kansas City Zoological District Sales Tax Fund. Five years after its creation, the commission will be authorized to borrow money for the construction, operation, improvement, and maintenance of zoological facilities. The commission must submit an annual report to the governing body of each member county; the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Parks and Recreation; and the Friends of the Zoo, Incorporated detailing the commission's operations and transactions.