

SS SB 984 -- EXCURSION GAMBLING BOATS

SPONSOR: Lembke (Zerr)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism by a vote of 9 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 was Senator Lembke.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the commission will be able to ensure that people only use casino chips or tokens for food and beverage purchases while on the casino floor.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Gaming Commission.