

HCS HB 935 -- ST. LOUIS ZOO SALES TAX

SPONSOR: Haefner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill restricts any future sales tax enacted under Section 67.547, RSMo in St. Louis County and the City of St. Louis for the purpose of funding the St. Louis Zoo to no more than 1/8 of 1% (0.125%). Residents of any county that does not adopt a sales tax for the purpose of supporting zoological activities may be charged an admission fee for zoological activities, programs, or events that are not, as of August 28, 2017, part of a zoological subdistrict of a metropolitan zoological park and museum district. The bill specifies that no funds from the sales tax can be distributed to Grant's Farm.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the zoo has long-term maintenance requirements that need to be addressed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haefner; Dr. Jeffrey Bonner, St. Louis Zoo; and Joe Ambrose, St. Louis Zoo Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.