

HB 1091 -- MUSEUMS

SPONSOR: Harris

This bill changes the laws regarding museums. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Authorizes the State Auditor to audit metropolitan museums in the same manner as auditing a state agency. Salaries of state auditors, examiners, and employees and expenses incurred during an audit will be paid by the museum district, subdistrict, and commission to be deposited into the Petition Audit Revolving Trust Fund;

(2) Provides that cases of lost or damaged property on loan to a museum may be litigated in front of a jury. The court will have discretion in granting relief and may include permanent or temporary injunctions, temporary restraining orders, other orders, or awards to the lender or claimant in the form of actual or punitive damages. Court costs and attorney fees may also be awarded to the prevailing party;

(3) Requires museums to maintain records for each item in its possession for as long as the item is in the museum's possession and for 25 years after. These records include all documentation related to the accession and origin of the item;

(4) Requires museums to maintain a directory of the items in its possession accessible to the general public during regular business hours;

(5) Revises the definition of "sale" by adding the modification or transfer of a prior sale or lease;

(6) Revises the definition of "charitable organization" to include any museum as defined in Section 184.102, RSMo, and as it applies to charitable soliciting includes: soliciting property, financial assistance, or other things of value, including the promise or grant of any money or property; and

(7) Revises the definition of "charitable purpose" to include any museum as defined in Section 184.102.

This bill is similar to HB 2366 (2016) and HB 508 (2015).