

HCS SCS SB 161 -- OZARK BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Sater (Rowland)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 7 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill creates the "Ozark Exploration Bicentennial Commission" and the "Ozark Exploration Bicentennial Fund" to hold any state or federal appropriations, gifts, or other money for use by the commission. The commission includes two representatives appointed by the Speaker. The duties of the commission include organizing and coordinating efforts relating to the bicentennial celebration of the exploration of the Ozarks in 1819 as well as promoting public awareness of the significance of the exploration. The commission will be dissolved on June 30, 2019.

This bill is similar to as HB 654 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this exploration introduced the world to the Missouri Ozarks through writings about the exploration of the Ozarks and the mineral deposits in the area. This commission would promote the bicentennial of the exploration, which would increase tourism in the Ozarks.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Justus for Senator Sater and the Missouri Humanities Council.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.