

HCS HB 677 -- TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Patterson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development by a vote of 13 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 3.

This bill allows Missouri and any other public body to expend funds for the purpose of aiding and cooperating in the planning, undertaking or carrying out of a land clearance project or projects to develop, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, repair or improve any tourism infrastructure facilities, as defined in the bill, which exists as of August 28, 2019, and for which an application is made and approved by the Department of Economic Development by August 28, 2020.

Any expenditure for such a land clearance project shall be limited to a portion of tax revenues derived directly or indirectly from such project as stated in an agreement between the public body and the land clearance for redevelopment authority, provided that such agreement shall not be longer than 20 years, the annual amount of state appropriation does not exceed \$2.5 million per year for any fiscal year ending on or before June 30, 2029 and \$4.5 million per year for any fiscal year after June 30, 2029, the project must be determined to produce a positive net fiscal impact for the state over the term of such agreement. The Director of the Department of Economic Development shall make an annual report on behalf of the department to the Governor and to the General Assembly within 90 days of the end of each fiscal year detailing the overall net fiscal impact for each project (Section 99.585 RSMo).

Additionally, this bill specifies that the General Assembly may annually appropriate up to \$3 million from the General Revenue Fund to each convention and sports complex fund, provided that the existing sports facility is located in a first class county with a charter form of government which contains part of a city having a population greater than 350,000 and is located in more than one county, such county or city has entered into a contact lease with a professional sports team affiliated with or franchised by the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, or the American League or the National League of Major League Baseball.

The Jackson County Convention and Sports Complex Fund is currently authorized to receive \$3 million in state appropriations each year until 2019. This bill extends the date to 2029 (Section 67.641).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is necessary to keep Missouri's tourism infrastructure facilities world-class venues to attract events such as collegiate sports tournaments, concerts, and other unique events. Supporters say that the facilities could use the improvements for public safety reasons. Supporters also claim that this bill would have a positive fiscal effect for the state, because these facilities bring in tourists that spend money that turns into tax revenue. Finally, supporters pointed out that current professional sports teams in Missouri provide significant private investments into these venues and have strong ties to their communities. While the bill would assist in renovating the facilities for public safety, the overarching goal of the bill is to attract special events that the teams would also use.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Patterson; Hursch Blackwell; St. Louis Regional Chamber; Jackson County Legislature; City of Kansas City; St. Louis Sports Commission; Phil Siddle, Kiel Center Partners; Jim Rowland, Jackson County Sports Complex Authority; Chris Zimmerman, Kiel Center Partners; and the Nexus Group.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

This bill is similar to SB 57 (2019).