

HB 1700 -- SPRINGFIELD TRANSIENT GUEST TAX

SPONSOR: Fishel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill authorizes any home rule city with more than 155,000 but fewer than 200,000 inhabitants to submit to the voters a transient guest tax not to exceed 7.5% of the charges per occupied room per night. Such tax shall be used solely for capital investments that can be demonstrated to increase the number of overnight visitors. This currently only applies to the City of Springfield.

Upon voter approval, the city may adopt rules and regulations for the internal collection of the tax, or may enter into an agreement with the Department of Revenue for the collection of the tax.

This bill is similar to HB 1073 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill creates a transient guest tax of 7.5% so that the city of Springfield can use the proceeds to build a new convention center. Springfield has a lot of visitors and could attract more people to this historic city with a larger convention center. This will also create new jobs for the area.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Fishel; Logan Aguirre; Springfield Convention And Visitors Bureau; Jason Gage, City Of Springfield; and Expedia Group.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.