

HCS HB 1986 -- STATE FUNDS FOR REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

SPONSOR: Thompson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 14 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by Rules-Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1986.

This bill updates the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council to the East-West Gateway Council of Governments.

Currently, state funds allocated for the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council and the Mid-America Regional Council are limited to \$65,000; this bill increases the amount to \$130,000. Similarly, the maximum amount of state funds that can be allocated for the following regional planning commissions is increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000 each: South Central Ozark, Ozark Foothills, Green Hills, Bootheel, Mark Twain, Southeast Missouri, Boonslick, Northwest Missouri, Mid-Missouri, Kaysinger Basin, Lake of the Ozarks, Meramec, Northeast Missouri, Harry S Truman, MO-Kan, Pioneer Trails, and Southwest Missouri. This bill removes the regional planning commissions currently known as "Show-Me", "Missouri Valley, Ozark Gateway", "ABCD" and "Lakes County".

Beginning July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the maximum grant amount for each regional planning commission will be adjusted based on the consumer price index.

This bill is similar to HB 1779, HB 2069, HB 2074, and HB 2151 (2024); SB 939 and SB 1112 (2024); and SB 634 (2023).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that planning commissions are important for economic growth and provide a valuable tool for shaping communities. Increasing funding for these commissions allows for community development and increased job opportunities throughout Missouri. Regional planning commissions will often reach out to communities to inform them about available grants for projects like new sidewalks. These commissions are particularly valuable in smaller communities. Planning commissions provide information about grants that are available for projects that smaller communities would not otherwise be able to complete financially.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Thompson; Jack Gamble, Missouri Association of Councils of Governments; Missouri Association of Counties; and Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.