

HCS HB 2352 -- WATERWAYS AND PORTS TRUST FUND

SPONSOR: Buchheit-Courtway

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation Infrastructure by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2352.

Currently, moneys in the Waterways and Ports Trust Fund can only be used for the purposes of specific undertakings of port development such as land acquisitions, construction, terminal facility development, port improvement projects, and other related port facilities. The authorized projects must, in part, be located on or adjacent to the navigable rivers of this state, funded by alternate sources so that moneys from the fund comprise no more than 80% of the cost of the projects, selected and approved by the Highways and Transportation Commission to support a statewide plan for waterborne commerce, and capable of completion within two years of Highways and Transportation Commission approval.

This bill repeals the current restricted purposes and required specified eligibility requirements and specifies that moneys in the fund must be requested by the port authority for statutorily permitted port purposes. The bill adds land owned by St. Louis City and managed by a port authority to the land that is eligible to receive an appropriation for improvements and changes the time limit for the completion requirement for projects to two years within appropriation of funds by the General Assembly.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that these changes will make an improvement in how funds are used, by whom, and where.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Buchheit-Courtway; Rouse Fret White Goss Gentile Rhodes, PC; Jefferson County Port Authority; and Lewis County Port Authority; and Brent Port Kansas City.

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.