

HCS HB 762 -- LIABILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES

SPONSOR: Johnson (47)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 17 to 1.

This substitute relieves cities and villages with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants of liability for the injury or death of any person attending any fair, festival, or similar gathering organized or sponsored by the municipality. The municipality must post a sign at the gathering stating that the municipality is not liable for injury or death resulting from the inherent risks of participating in an activity.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that insurance costs for small communities to sponsor local fairs have significantly increased, thereby causing some communities to discontinue the fairs. The bill is intended to limit risk and lower municipalities' insurance costs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Whorton; David Morrison, Presiding Commissioner, Ozark County Commission; and Kenneth Roberts, Presiding Commissioner, Grundy County Commission.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst