

HB 2429 -- ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT MUNICIPAL PERMITS

SPONSOR: Hunter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Workforce Development and Workplace Safety by a vote of 9 to 2.

Currently, a promotional association representing historic downtown Kansas City may obtain an entertainment district special license to sell liquor by the drink from portable bars within its common areas between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. on Monday through Saturday and between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. on Sundays. This bill requires a promotional association to also obtain a permit from the city after submitting a detailed plan specifying the legal description of the district, the members of the promotional association, the calendar of events for the district, proposed public street closures, proof of insurance, and the security to be provided. Upon plan approval, the association may sell liquor between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. on Monday through Saturday and between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. on Sunday. If an association violates any liquor laws or regulations, it may be assessed a civil fine of up to \$5,000. If an association is found responsible for violations at three separate events, its plan will be deemed terminated, and it will not be allowed to submit another plan without the prior written consent of the Supervisor of the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control within the Department of Public Safety.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$69,257 in FY 2009, \$58,041 in FY 2010, and \$59,809 in FY 2011. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the economic advantages provided by festival-permitted events that are enjoyed by a certain part of the Kansas City area should be expanded to all of the Kansas City area.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Hunter and Meiners.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the festival-permitted area established in 2005 is geographically enclosed which aids in crowd control. If other areas in Kansas City offered festival events, the competition would adversely affect the businesses in the existing festival-permitted area.

Testifying against the bill was Cordish Company.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the festival-permitted area is currently restricted to 20 events which must be carefully planned and booked well in advance of the events.

Testifying on the bill was Jim Farrell, Westport.