

HB 354 -- PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

SPONSOR: Schlottach

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Infrastructure and Transportation Funding by a vote of 10 to 2.

This bill changes the laws regarding the Missouri Public-Private Partnerships Transportation Act by expanding the types of projects that may be included. Currently, the act is limited to the bridge project over the Mississippi River. The bill allows any pipeline, ferry, river port, airport, railroad, light rail or other mass transit facility, and any similar or related improvement or infrastructure to be financed, developed, and/or operated under an agreement between the Highways and Transportation Commission and a private partner.

The commission is allowed to approve projects it determines are needed or will improve the state transportation system. The "state transportation system" is defined as the state system of nonhighway transportation programs including, but not limited to, aviation, transit and mass transportation, railroads, ports, waterborne commerce, freight, and intermodal connections.

A sales and use tax exemption is authorized on all sales and purchases of tangible property, utilities, or services for use in public-private transportation projects; and any revenues received from a public-private project are exempt from state income tax.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that it is important that more projects be included under the act. The bill will allow private investment money to be used for certain projects rather than tax dollars which will provide the state with a new tool to fund state and local transportation projects.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schlottach; TranSystems; and Missouri Railroad Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there are concerns that the bill could lead to the state authorizing toll roads and bridges in the state.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Motor Carriers Association.