

HB 1542 -- SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES ON HOLIDAYS

SPONSOR: Deeken

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill adds February 14, Valentine's Day, when it falls on a Sunday, to the list of holidays on which any person having a license to sell intoxicating liquor by the drink may be open for business and sell intoxicating liquor by the drink under the provisions of the person's current license.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that many restaurants in small towns and rural areas of the state are not open on Sundays but would like to open for business on select Sundays because of the substantial business on special occasions. Most of these restaurants have a license to sell liquor Monday through Saturday, but cannot afford the license to sell on Sunday because it is too expensive for only being open one or two Sundays each year. Valentine's Day is the second most profitable day of the year for a restaurant, after Mother's Day, and allowing a restaurant to sell liquor on that day will result in additional sales and income tax for the state.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Deeken and Storch; Robert Agee, Madison's Cafe; Missouri Anheuser-Busch Wholesalers Association; and Missouri Restaurant Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.