

HCS SCS SB 723 -- REVENUE BONDS

SPONSOR: Parson (Stream)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Budget by a vote of 20 to 0.

Currently, there is a \$775 million cap on the amount of revenue bonds that may be issued by the State Board of Public Buildings. This bill, upon voter approval, raises the cap by \$400 million to \$1.175 billion. Proceeds from the bonds that may be issued under Sections 8.370 to 8.450 are subject to appropriation and may be used only for approved projects. At least \$200 million of the bonds that may be issued due to the increase in the cap may only be used for constructing, repairing, renovating, improving, equipping, and furnishing a new mental health facility in Callaway County.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will allow the state to use the currently low interest rates to issue bonds to renovate and improve existing state facilities, improve safety systems, repair roofs, complete deferred building maintenance, build the new mental health center in Fulton, and redevelop the St. Mary's Hospital facility for state use. Investing in the maintenance of state facilities is an effective use of public funds.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Parson; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Community College Association; Dick Wiles; Council on Public Higher Education; Linn State Technical College; University of Central Missouri; and Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.