

HCS HB 144 -- EXHIBITION CENTER AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Marsh (Luetkemeyer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Cultural Affairs by a vote of 16 to 0.

This substitute creates the Exhibition Center and Recreational Facility District Act which allows residents of Camden, Miller, and Morgan counties to request by petition that an exhibition center and recreational facility district be created. The substitute requires that at least 50 property owners sign the petition. The petition must include the names and addresses of petitioners and the location of their property, a map and specific description of the boundaries of the proposed district, and the name of the proposed district.

The substitute also allows Boone County to create an exhibition center and recreational facility district. All property owners within the proposed Boone County district must sign the petition.

The governing body of each county included in the district can approve the creation of the district by resolution. However, the district will not be established until after a public hearing is held and each county within the proposed district adopts an order establishing the district. In Boone County, unanimous approval of the order establishing the district is required of all property owners within the district.

A board of trustees is created to administer the district and all revenue received by the district. The board will have no more than 12 members. The substitute specifies how the trustees will be selected and the powers of the board. Among its powers, the board will have the power of eminent domain and condemnation within the district and will be able to issue bonds secured by all of the property and income of the district.

The substitute allows the district to submit to voters within the district a sales tax of up to 0.5% on all sales within the district. The revenue from this tax will be deposited into the Exhibition Center and Recreational Facility District Sales Tax Trust Fund which the substitute establishes. The revenue collected from this tax will fund the exhibition center and recreational facilities. Twenty-five years from its effective date, this tax will reduce to a rate of 0.1% unless voters in the district approve an extension at the rate of 0.5%. Extensions of the sales tax cannot be for more than 20 years. This tax cannot be abolished or terminated if the district has outstanding debts or obligations. In Boone County, if no registered voters live within the proposed district, the proposed sales tax and

extensions would be submitted to the voters in the county.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Income to General Revenue Fund of \$0 or Unknown in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006. Estimated Net Effect to the Exhibition Center and Recreational Facility District Sales Tax Trust Fund of \$0 in FY 2004, FY 2005, and FY 2006.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill creates a taxing district that will enable that area to purchase an existing building and expand it to become an exhibition center. They anticipate that the exhibition center will offer year-round employment to many people in the community because it will be able to accommodate large groups that now cannot come to the Lake area for conferences because the current facilities are lacking. The exhibition center will not be in competition with any existing facility, and it will not take business away from hotels in the area. This is not a tax increase. The bill authorizes local residents in the district to make the decision about their own livelihood and future by allowing them to vote on the taxing district.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Luetkemeyer and Cooper (155); Lake of the Ozarks Exhibition Center Committee; Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce; Lake of the Ozarks Area Chamber of Commerce; Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau; Miller County Special Business District; Boone County; John Farrell Real Estate Company; Sycamore Creek Golf Club; B & B Heating and Cooling; First Title Insurance Agency; Artpho Gallery; and Lake Printing.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst