

HB 144 -- Exhibition Center and Recreational Facility District Act

Co-Sponsors: Luetkemeyer, Cooper (155)

This bill 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 bill requires that at least 50 property owners sign the petition. The petition must include the name and address of each petitioner and the location of their property; a specific description of the boundaries of the proposed district, including a map; and the name of the proposed district.

The bill states that 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.

The bill creates a board of trustees to administer the district and all revenue received by the district. The board will have no more than 12 members. The bill explains how the trustees will be selected and the powers of the board. Among its powers, the board will have the power of eminent domain, the power to condemn private property within the district, and the power to issue bonds secured by all of the property and income of the district.

The bill 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 bill 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.