

HCS HB 1403 -- AMUSEMENT RIDES

SPONSOR: Mayer (Moore)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 16 to 2.

This substitute makes changes to the laws regarding amusement rides. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Expands the definition of "amusement ride" to include dry slides, bungee cord attractions, and climbing walls;

(2) Authorizes the Department of Public Safety to conduct spot inspections of amusement rides without notice whenever the ride is operating and provides for suspension when unsafe conditions are disclosed and reinstatement upon correction and reinspection;

(3) Changes the allocation of collected inspection fees from the General Revenue Fund to the Elevator Safety Fund; and

(4) Makes it a class B misdemeanor to knowingly make false statements or representations in documents required in the laws governing amusement rides.

The substitute becomes effective January 1, 2005.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$14,250 in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$7,568 in FY 2005, \$141,337 in FY 2006, and \$142,249 in FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill establishes an enforcement mechanism to ensure that safety requirements for amusement rides and attractions are met. In 1997, a safety program for amusement rides was enacted, but there was no funding mechanism. In 2000, the Amusement Ride Safety Board was created, but again, no funding was provided. The bill creates a funding stream to enforce the laws already in place and adds other attractions, such as climbing walls. Recently, a young woman died after falling from a climbing wall because the safety wire was held in place with duct tape. A safety inspection would have prevented her death.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Moore and Bruns; Craig Ewing; Missouri Attractions Association; YMCA State Alliance; and Office of State Fire Marshall.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Richard Smreker, Senior Legislative Analyst