

HB 2610 -- NEIGHBORHOOD TOURIST DEVELOPMENT

SPONSOR: Washington

Currently, 10% of a 7.5% transient guest tax in Kansas City is appropriated to the "Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund".

This bill modifies the administration of fund so that the Kansas City city Council establishes a committee to administer the fund.

The committee will consist of 15 members who shall be residents of the city appointed as follows:

- (1) Two persons from each council district, each to be appointed by his or her respective council representative; and
- (2) Three representatives from the city at-large, to be appointed by the mayor of such city.

The purpose of the committee will be to review project proposals for the receipt of moneys from the fund and to make recommendations to the city council on the disbursement of the funds on a citywide basis to neighborhood organizations, as defined in the bill. The committee will meet as often as necessary to review proposals for funding. No proposal will be considered by the city council for approval, modification, or disapproval without first being reviewed and reported to the city council by the committee.

In accordance with the general purpose of the fund projects approved by the committee and the city council will, in addition to any other criteria to be considered by the committee:

- (1) Take place within the city and will have appeal to local residents, as well as to tourists;
- (2) Be open to the general public and attract persons who would not otherwise plan to be present in the city, as well as interest those who are visiting for other purposes;
- (3) Not reflect or enhance political parties, candidates, or political office holders;
- (4) Not be normal ongoing activities of individual block clubs or homeowners' associations;
- (5) In the case of capital projects, obtain funding for the planning, maintenance, and staffing of capital projects from sources other than the fund;

(6) Not include hiring staff, securing consulting or planning services, or market studies; and

(7) Not request funds to supplant operating costs that are currently publicly funded.

To receive moneys from the fund, neighborhood organizations must submit an application to the committee. Such application will include, but not be limited to:

(1) A clear geographical definition of the neighborhood that is the sponsor of the project;

(2) A clear geographical definition of the neighborhood that is the beneficiary of the project;

(3) A clear description of the way in which the project will promote the benefiting neighborhood;

(4) A clear description of the way in which the project will benefit the neighborhood in the short term and in the long term;

(5) Estimates of the costs of the project;

(6) Written documentation demonstrating that timely advance communication about the project to surrounding registered neighborhood groups is given and that such groups have the opportunity to participate in the planning and, if possible, the execution of the project; and

(7) A resolution from the board of directors of the neighborhood organization stating that the project meets the requirements of this section.

At least 80% of the moneys in the fund shall be awarded to projects that promote one or more specific neighborhoods within the city rather than the promotion of the city as a whole. No moneys in the fund shall be used for salaries or compensation for any member of the committee or for any other employee of the city.

The city council must submit all documentation necessary for the state auditor to conduct an annual audit of the fund to ensure compliance with the provisions of this bill. These audits will be performed on a fiscal year basis, and the cost of these audits will be paid by the city council. The city council will ensure copies of each audit will be made available to the public within 30 days of the completion of the audit. If the city council uses moneys from the fund for purposes other than for the purposes designated in this bill, the city council will repay moneys to the fund.