

SB 561 -- EXCURSION GAMBLING BOAT ADMISSION FEE REVENUE

SPONSOR: Gross (Dempsey)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Veterans by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill limits the expenditures that can be made from funds derived from admission fees paid to the City of St. Charles and St. Charles County by excursion gambling boats to no more than the amount of revenue received from these fees in Fiscal Year 2007. If a new excursion gambling boat locates in the City of St. Charles or St. Charles County, the amount of expenditures from funds derived from admission fees cannot exceed the average revenue received by the city or county from admission fees during the first two fiscal years in which the boat was open for business. In the future, if the city or county collects admission fee revenue in excess of what it collected in Fiscal Year 2007, the revenue will be treated as if it were sales tax revenue and the city or county must reduce its total general revenue property tax levy.

For fiscal years 2010 through 2014, at least 70% of the admission fee revenues can be used for expenses related to capital, cultural, and special law enforcement purposes. For fiscal years 2015 and beyond, at least 80% of the admission fee revenues must be used for expenses related to capital, cultural, and special law enforcement purposes.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies how the revenue received from the casino boats in St. Charles County and the City of St. Charles must be allocated.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Gross.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst