

HCS SS SCS SBs 20, 15 & 19 -- Benevolent Tax Credits

SPONSOR: Dixon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities by a vote of 11 to 1.

This substitute changes the laws regarding tax credits. In its main provision, the substitute:

(1) Extends, from August 28, 2013, to December 31, 2019, the provisions regarding the income tax credit for the surviving spouse of a public safety officer who has not remarried (Section 135.090, RSMo);

(2) Reauthorizes the children in crisis tax credit for any verified contribution to a qualified agency made on or after January 1, 2013, and changes the name of the tax credit to the Champion for children tax credit. This provision will expire on December 31, 2019 (Section 135.327);

(3) Repeals the provision which requires up to \$100,000 of any available remaining tax credits under the \$10 million cap for the investment in or relocating a business to a distressed community to be used for tax credits for residential renovations for disability access (Section 135.535);

(4) Extends the provisions regarding the residential renovations for disability access tax credit from December 31, 2013, to December 31, 2019 (Section 135.562);

(5) Reauthorizes the provisions regarding the tax credit for a contribution to a pregnancy resource center made on or after January 1, 2013. This provision will expire on December 31, 2019 (Section 135.630);

(6) Reauthorizes the provisions regarding the income tax credit for a donation to a food pantry made on or after January 1, 2013. The cumulative amount of tax credits under this section which may be allocated to all taxpayers contributing to a local food pantry in any one fiscal year must not exceed \$1,250,000. Currently, the cap is \$2 million. This provision will expire on December 31, 2019 (Section 135.647); and

(7) Changes the laws regarding the Tax Credit Accountability Act of 2004 by adding the developmental disability care provider tax credit under Section 135.1180 to the definition of "domestic and social tax credits" (Section 135.800).

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say these tax credits benefit Missouri families. The bill changes the name of the children in crisis tax credit to the Champion for children tax credit after the original sponsor of the tax credit, Norma Champion. These tax credits are a good vehicle to drive donations to private agencies and promote a community investment approach to fundraising. The ability to utilize local, private investors who get to choose how they spend their tax dollars instead of letting the state choose for them is a good thing.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Dixon; Saint Louis Police Officers Association; Missouri Probation and Parole Officers Association; Missouri State Fraternal Order of Police; Brian Grace, Voices for Children; Cindi Boston, The Pregnancy Care Center; Mary Chant, Missouri Coalition of Children's Agencies; Scott Baker, Missouri Food Bank Association; Dottie Mullikin, Isabel's House; Campaign Life, Missouri; Wayne Lee; Missouri Right to Life; Missouri Catholic Conference; Missouri Kids First; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Matthew Evans, Missouri CASA Association; Missouri Family Network; Missouri State Council of Fire Fighters; Joanne Schrader; Alliance for Life; and Great Circle.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.