

HB 2805 -- LAND CLEARANCE PROJECTS

SPONSOR: Engler

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Attraction and Retention by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill authorizes the state, acting through the Department of Economic Development and the Office of Administration, or any other public body, to appropriate funds to aid in the planning, undertaking, or carrying out of a land clearance project to develop, construct, reconstruct, rehabilitate, repair or improve any tourism infrastructure facilities within the project area. Any annual appropriation for such project must be limited to a portion of tax revenues derived directly or indirectly from the project. The annual amount of the state appropriation may not exceed \$6 million per year for any one project and must be determined to produce a positive net fiscal impact for the state over the terms of the project agreement.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Scottrade Center in St. Louis must be upgraded to remain competitive or Missouri will lose a substantial amount of revenue from sports and tourism events that elect to go elsewhere.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Engler; Chris Zimmerman, Scottrade Center/Peabody Opera House; Doug Elgin, Missouri Valley Conference; Bob Bonney, Missouri Restaurant Association; Chris Roseman, St. Louis Sports Commission; and Dentons On Behalf Of The Office Of Mayor Francis Slay.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.