

HB 612 -- STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

SPONSOR: Coleman (97)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill transfers the Missouri State Council on the Arts by type II transfer from the Department of Economic Development to the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is part of the Governor's reorganization plan. The Department of Economic Development is not as competitive and efficient as similar departments in other states because it currently has many additional functions. The goal is to reduce the size of the department from 862 persons to 177. The Office of the Lieutenant Governor strongly supports the transfer because the Missouri Council on the Arts provides many services and benefits to senior citizens and veterans. Programs benefiting such individuals are central to the mission of the office. No increase in funding from General Revenue will be needed.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Coleman; Rob Dixon, Missouri Department of Economic Development; Alex Curchin, Office of the Lieutenant Governor; Missouri Citizens for Arts; Missouri Humanities Council; and Missouri Arts Council.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.