

HCS HB 1601 -- TRANSIENT GUEST TAX

SPONSOR: Walsh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Local Government by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1601.

This bill authorizes, upon voter approval, a transient guest tax of between 2% and 5% per occupied room per night for tourism purposes.

Currently, this only applies to the city of Cameron.

The bill also authorizes, upon voter approval, a transient guest tax in the amount of not more than 5% per occupied room per night. The tax shall be used for the promotion of tourism, growth of the region, economic development purposes, and public safety purposes including but not limited to equipment expenditures, employee salaries and benefits, and facilities for police, firefighters, or emergency medical providers.

Currently, this only applies to the city of Ashland.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this tax will provide necessary income for the cities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walsh; Bill Lloyd, Southern Boone Economic Development Council; and Tony St. Romaine, City of Ashland.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.