

HB 2483 -- RECREATION SALES TAX

SPONSOR: Hovis

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Ways and Means by a vote of 5 to 1.

Currently, any county of the third class having a population of more than 10,000 and less than 15,000 and any county of the second class having a population of more than 58,000 and less than 70,000 adjacent to such third class county, both counties making up the same judicial circuit, may jointly impose a sales tax throughout each of their respective counties for public recreational purposes including the financing, acquisition, construction, operation and maintenance of recreational projects and programs, but the sales taxes will not become effective unless the governing body of each such county submits to the voters of their respective counties a proposal to authorize the counties to impose the sales tax and such proposal is approved by a majority of the voters in each county.

This bill changes the counties having authority to impose such a tax to any county of the third classification without a township form of government and with more than 12,000 but fewer than 14,000 inhabitants and with a city of the fourth classification with more than 1,350 but fewer than 1,500 inhabitants as the county seat and any county of the first classification with more than 70,000 but fewer than 83,000 inhabitants and with a city of the fourth classification with more than 13,500 but fewer than 16,000 inhabitants as the county seat.

The provisions of this bill apply to Bollinger County and Cape Girardeau County.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill updates language passed into law over 25 years ago. The original law required that both counties pass a sales tax on a ballot in order for the tax to be levied. With only one county passing the sales tax, the tax was not levied, and it is required to update the descriptions of the counties in order to accommodate population and classification changes in the counties in order for the counties to revisit the sales tax.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Hovis.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.