

HB 28 -- TRANSIENT GUEST TAX

SPONSOR: Walsh (50)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Special Committee on Tourism by a vote of 6 to 2.

The bill 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. Information regarding the tax rate and purposes for the tax must be included on the city's website.

If enacted, this section initially would only apply to the city of Ashland.

This bill is similar to HB 1601 (2020).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that although there is currently not a hotel in the city, this bill allow the city voters to decide on an additional funding mechanism for certain city activities. Ashland is rapidly growing and it should not be long before a hotel is built in the city.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Walsh. There was additional written testimony submitted in support of the bill.

OPPOSERS: There was written testimony submitted in opposition to the bill.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.