

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TOURISM COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Barbara P. Allen at 1:30 p.m. on February 20, 1997 in Room 522-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Larkin - excused
Rep. Presta - excused
Rep. Adkins - excused

Committee staff present: Carolyn Rampey, Legislative Research Department
Tom Severn, Legislative Research Department
Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Nancy Kirkwood, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Gary Sherrer, Lt. Governor of Kansas, Secretary, Department
Commerce and Housing, proponent

Others attending: See attached list

Chairperson Allen opened the hearing on HB2349 - tourism development.

Chairperson Allen recognized Carolyn Rampey to give the history of HB2349. In the seventies the statutes being amended here were enacted to give local units of government a tool to address urban blight. This gave local government the tools to finance redevelopment using tax increment financing. The increases in property taxes that are generated from improvements are used to retire the bonds that are used for the project. Over the years, the statutes have been expanded to include environmentally contaminated areas and enterprise zones. This bill would add tourism areas to the list of projects that could be financed using tax increment financing. SB325 amends some of the same statutes as HB2349. It defines what a major tourism project would be. The definition is that it would attract at least 115,000 out of state visitors and generate 18.6 million dollars. SB337 amends the statutes that concern enterprise zone laws. An enterprise zone qualifies for certain tax exemptions. It uses the same definition (tourism activities) that is in SB325.

Chairperson Allen recognized Gary Sherrer, Secretary, KDOCH, proponent.

Chairperson Allen closed the hearing on HB2349 - tourism development.

Chairperson Allen informed the Committee, there would be no meeting tomorrow, but would be meeting on Monday for committee discussion and possible action on HB2349.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 1997.

