

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Corbin at 10:50 a.m. on January 28, 2003, in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senators Clark and Pugh

Committee staff present: Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department
April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Shirley Higgins, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Molly McGovern, Mid-America Regional Council

Others attending: See attached list.

Senator Corbin announced that the joint taxation subcommittee appointed to draft a bill regarding property taxation for not-for-profit independent living units will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 30.

Informational presentation on the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact

Molly McGovern, representing the Mid-America Regional Council, outlined the history and purpose of the Culture District and explained how the bi-state sales tax revenues have been invested. Information regarding studies of the not-for-profit U.S. arts industry, the national economic impact of the not-for-profit cultural organizations, and the economic activity of arts and cultural non-profits in the Kansas City metro area were attached to her written testimony. (Attachment 1) Ms. McGovern pointed out that, through the bi-state sales tax, the region can combine resources that no single city or county can amass on its own. She noted that the Culture District was formed following a public vote with the support of a majority of voters in Johnson County, Kansas, and Clay, Platte, and Jackson Counties in Missouri. The voters also authorized a sales tax to raise \$118 million for the restoration of Union Station and the development of a science museum in the station. That tax expired in 2002 when the \$118 million total was reached. Ms. McGovern discussed the economic return to the states from visitors to the area, from the employment of cultural organizations, and from resident spending and contributions. She explained that the definition of “cultural activities” was revised in 2000 to include sports. In conclusion, she emphasized that a positive aspect of the existing legislation is that no bi-state project can be funded without the region’s voters approving the specific project and no single county can impose the tax without voter approval.

Following her presentation, Ms. McGovern responded to questions from the Committee concerning the possibility of specific projects being listed when the next vote on the Compact is taken. She also confirmed that the first \$899,000.00 collected in bi-state sales taxes was set aside for administration, and the bi-state culture district commission contracted with the Mid-America Regional Council for staff support. In addition,

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she agreed to provide data on the percent of population based in Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas, as requested by Senator Oleen. In response to questions from Senator Allen regarding current information on the success of the science museum in Union Station, she indicated that she would contact Union Station and attempt to obtain detailed information as to if it is meeting projected expectations with regard to visitors, revenues, and jobs.

Senator Haley moved to approve the minutes of the January 22 meeting, seconded by Senator Buhler. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2003.