

Missouri Travel Council Legislative Update

From: Dale Amick 2/11/10

Changes in local tourism guest taxes have been preliminarily approved by the Missouri Senate.

Many communities have guest taxes that help finance tourism and travel promotion and development. Among the changes proposed in the legislation (SB 580) are allowing guest tax funds to be used for capital improvements such as convention facilities and raising the cap on some taxes. Other new local guest taxes were authorized in the legislation, which is an omnibus local government bill sponsored by Sen. John Griesheimer.

The Senate Appropriations Committee this past week reviewed the budget for the Division of Tourism. Director Katie Steele Danner did an excellent job in answering committee member questions about Division activities.

Look for the House Appropriations Committee this coming week to begin drafting a budget for the Department of Economic Development, which includes the Division of Tourism. Gov. Jay Nixon has recommended 20.4 million dollars for the agency budget in the fiscal year beginning July 1.