



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 618

Chairperson: Abbie Cornett
Committee: Revenue
Date of Hearing: March 19, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 618 would adopt the Family Entertainment and Sports Attraction Act, which would permit the formation of Family Entertainment and Sports Attraction Districts in the State (Districts).

Local political subdivisions could apply to a State board, created for the purpose (identical in makeup to the boards created under the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act), for an area to be designated as a District. To qualify as such, the District must encompass facilities that will either (1) "attract or retain a spectator sports franchise or event" that is reasonably expected to draw over 100,000 spectators per year, or (2) "permit substantial facilities upgrades" for an intercollegiate athletic team that is reasonably expected to draw over 100,000 spectators per year. In each case, the facilities must result in a "long-term occupancy agreement" of 20 years or more.

In the event that the area is designated as a District, then, if the area is not already within an area in which a local option sales tax is imposed, the local political subdivision may impose such a local option sales tax up to 1.5 percent, and the state would agree to "turnback" the local political subdivision up to 75 percent of the state sales tax collected within the District.

Bonds would be authorized, which could be repaid with the sales tax revenues resulting from status as a District, as well as other sources.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Abbie Cornett