

HCS HB 89 -- FUNDING FOR DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Ruzicka (Pollock)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute authorizes the State Treasurer to deposit all of the moneys in the State Park Earnings Fund in any of the qualified depositories of the state and requires all these deposits to be secured in a manner provided by law relative to state deposits. Any interest earned on these deposits must be credited to the fund.

The public notice requirements of the Clean Water Commission of the State of Missouri when listing any impaired waters of the state under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act are extended from August 28, 2010, to August 28, 2015.

The commission's authority to charge fees for construction permits, operating permits, and operator's certifications related to water pollution control is extended from December 31, 2010, to December 31, 2015.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$111,196 in FY 2012, \$82,868 in FY 2013, and \$79,400 in FY 2014. Estimated Net Income on Other State Funds of \$111,196 in FY 2012, \$82,868 in FY 2013, and \$79,400 in FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is needed because the fees from the permits provide a large portion of the funding to carry out the federally delegated duties of the Clean Water Act. Without this funding, the United States Environmental Protection Agency may rescind the state's delegated authority to carry out this program.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pollock; Department of Natural Resources; Flotron and McIntosh, LLC; Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District; Springfield City Utilities; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the clean water program and its fees are necessary, but an extension is not enough. The current fees are inadequate to sustain the program at the levels necessary to meet all the requirements of the Clean

Water Act.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Conservation Environmental Alliance.