

HB 211 -- LEAD ABATEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Koenig

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Small Business by a vote of 16 to 4.

This bill prohibits the Department of Health and Senior Services from enforcing or enacting any rule or regulation relating to lead abatement that is stricter than those required by federal law.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$24,663 in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of the bill say that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates 1.3 million houses in Missouri have lead-based paint including 60% of houses built between 1960 and 1978 and all houses built before 1949. Houses built prior to 1978 must be registered, follow guidelines, and provide disclosures to tenants according to federal regulations. Missouri has added the need for a supervisor to be present while EPA requires the supervisor to be within two hours of the site. A contractor must notify the state 10 business days prior to performing any service. The bill will prevent any confusion when a person is providing lead abatement services.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Koenig; and Earl Morris, Jackson-Morris.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that EPA guidelines are in effect not only to protect homeowners and their families but also to protect our infrastructure including the water supply. A small amount of lead can cause health problems. Lowering the standards could cause injury to workers, homeowners, and citizens. Missouri's lead laws are modeled after those of Maryland, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Missouri's laws are better than the federal laws.

Testifying against the bill were Gary Otten, Painters District Council 2; and Missouri AFL-CIO.