

HCS HB 250 -- WATER WELL REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Cox

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources by a vote of 16 to 0.

This substitute specifies that any water system that exclusively serves a charitable or benevolent organization will be exempt from all rules relating to well construction except those applying to multifamily wells and those requiring proof of water quantity drawn unless it is determined to present a threat to groundwater or public health. A water system cannot be exempt if it regularly serves an average of 100 people or more for at least 60 days of the year or if it serves a school or daycare facility.

If a system has three or more violations of the total coliform maximum contaminant level in a 12-month period or one acute violation of the maximum contaminant level, the system's owner must provide an alternative source of water, eliminate the source of contamination, or provide treatment that reliably achieves at least 99.99% treatment of viruses.

No facility can be required to replace, change, upgrade, or alter an existing well constructed prior to August 28, 2011, unless the well is determined to be a threat to groundwater or public health or contains certain contaminant levels.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help small charitable and benevolent organizations who must drill a new well. Currently, these organizations must spend thousands of dollars to drill a well to meet unnecessary standards. The bill requires the necessary testing to ensure that a well is producing safe drinking water.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cox; Rob Ayres; Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission; Missouri Farm Bureau; and Flotron and McIntosh, LLC.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the requirements for the type of well that is required and the specifications to which a well must be built are based on the federal definition of "public water supply."

Testifying on the bill was Department of Natural Resources.