

HCS SS SCS SB 882 -- MISSOURI BLASTING SAFETY ACT

SPONSOR: Engler (Cooper, 120)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Missouri Blasting Safety Act. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires any person using explosives in this state to obtain a license from the Division of Fire Safety within the Department of Public Safety;
- (2) Establishes certain criteria to be met by applicants prior to the issuance of a license;
- (3) Authorizes the division to suspend, revoke, or deny licenses but provides for an appeal process through the State Blasting Safety Board which is established;
- (4) Requires a person whose license has expired for more than three years to take the licensing exam and complete the continuing education requirements prior to being reissued a license;
- (5) Allows for license reciprocity and certain licensing exemptions;
- (6) Authorizes the division to adopt rules creating a standardized qualification examination, continuing education requirements, and a fee structure;
- (7) Specifies requirements for blasting activity, including the use of a seismograph recording;
- (8) Requires all persons using explosives in this state to register with the State Fire Marshal within 60 days of the effective date of the substitute, pay a fee, and file an annual report listing their blasting activities from the previous year;
- (9) Creates within the state treasury the Missouri Explosives Safety Act Administration Fund to be used by the State Fire Marshal for administration and enforcement costs; and
- (10) Requires any person using explosives in this state to notify the division at least two business days in advance before blasting at a new site.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2007, FY

2008, and FY 2009. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$9,860 in FY 2007, \$6,204 in FY 2008, and \$1,951 in FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are currently no state regulations regarding blasting and excavating in Missouri. The bill will standardize blasting activities and restrictions and will permit municipalities to enact local rules without allowing them to enact regulations regarding the technical aspects of blasting.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Engler; Eric Strobe, Capital Quarries Company, Incorporated; Associated General Contractors of Missouri, Incorporated; and Missouri Limestone Producers Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the fees established in the bill will pay the costs of the three employees the State Fire Marshal's office will need to implement the provisions of the bill.

Others testifying on the bill was State Fire Marshal.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst