

HB 801 -- TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SPONSOR: Kraus

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Utilities by a vote of 11 to 1.

This bill removes the expiration date of August 28, 2007, on the provision restricting political subdivisions from providing certain telecommunication services and facilities.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that political subdivisions will continue to be restricted from competing with private companies by offering telephone services. Competition could hurt taxpayers, and there are currently no municipalities that want to offer this service.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Kraus; City Utilities of Springfield; Embarq; CenturyTel; Missouri Telecommunications Industry Association; Missouri Cable and Telecommunications Association; and Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill took a neutral position on the legislation.

Testifying on the bill was AT&T Missouri.