

HCS HB 1023 -- CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ADVISORY BOARD

SPONSOR: Hobbs (Quinn, 7)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute establishes an advisory board within the Department of Conservation to assist the Conservation Commission. The board will be staffed by the department and will consist of one member from each conservation district with no more than four from the same political party. Four of the members must obtain 51% of their income from farming activities, and each member will serve staggered four-year terms. The board is required to report annually to the commission, General Assembly, and Governor.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds Could Exceed \$100,000 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the members of the advisory board will have no authority or power but will be the eyes and ears for the Department of Conservation in his or her region and will advise the department accordingly.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Quinn (7); Bob Wilson, Missouri Gamebird Preserves; Missouri Wildlife Breeders Association; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Missouri Corn Growers Association; and Gary Webb, Noodler's Anonymous.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the board might work to limit public input, and the department is not clear on the objective of the board.

Testifying against the bill were Department of Conservation; and Conservation Federation of Missouri.