

HB 506 -- MATH, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE WEEK

SPONSOR: Funderburk

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill requires the Governor to issue an annual proclamation designating the third week of March as "Math, Engineering, Technology and Science (METS) Week." The proclamation must recommend observance of the week through activities that increase community awareness and interest in METS programs and promote METS careers statewide to advance Missouri's workforce. The bill also recommends that the week be observed with appropriate activities in public schools.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that having strong math and science skills is crucial to the strength of our country. Hi-tech employers, many of whom have connections with the defense industry, need employees with these skills. Many employers would rather have better educated workers than tax breaks.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Funderburk; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.