

SS HCS HB 661 -- NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

This bill changes the laws regarding programs administered by the Department of Natural Resources. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Extends the expiration date from January 1, 2010, to January 1, 2015, for the collection of the tire disposal fee in Section 260.273, RSMo;
- (2) Increases from 5% to 45% the maximum funding from tire fees for grants to individuals using products derived from waste tires or using used waste tires for fuel or fuel supplements;
- (3) Increases from 25% to 50% the maximum funding from the tire fees for the administration of various tire-related programs;
- (4) Allows charitable, fraternal, and other nonprofit organizations that voluntarily clean up land or water resources to be reimbursed if funds are available for the disposal costs of scrap tires collected during these activities and allows, subject to the availability of funds, municipal and county governments that voluntarily clean up illegal tire dumps to be reimbursed for the disposal costs of scrap tires;
- (5) Removes the provision requiring the department to report to the General Assembly by January 1, 2009, a complete accounting of tire cleanup projects that are in progress or that have been completed, the costs of the cleanups, and enforcement actions completed or initiated to address waste tires;
- (6) Specifies that a coal-fired electric generating facility that burns tire-derived fuel will not be considered a scrap tire site or solid waste disposal area for regulation purposes;
- (7) Prohibits the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District from assessing a district residential property owner any fee, charge, or tax for storm water management services if the district does not directly provide sanitary sewer services to the property and the storm water runoff from the property does not flow or is not otherwise conveyed to a sewer maintained by the district;
- (8) Allows the state to distribute economic stimulus funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, commonly known as the federal economic stimulus act, to local governments, public water or sewer districts, and other eligible entities to assist in the construction of public drinking water and water pollution control projects as authorized in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act or by the Clean Water Commission;

(9) Allows the department to analyze the potential for increased utilization of landfill gas and projects to reduce and capture methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from landfills as an alternative energy source;

(10) Authorizes the department to enter into cooperative agreements with other states, political subdivisions, private entities, and educational institutions in order to seek and obtain federal grants;

(11) Allows funds appropriated to the department for energy-related activities to be used to carry out agreements, contracts, subgrants, or cooperative arrangements with other governmental, public or private organizations or entities, or educational institutions;

(12) Creates the Energy Futures Fund to be used for energy-related activities including energy efficiency programs, energy studies, energy resource analyses, energy projects, and related departmental administration costs;

(13) Extends from August 28, 2009, to August 28, 2010, the requirement that the department notify the United States Environmental Protection Agency for its approval of any list of any waters of the state being classified as impaired as adopted by the Clean Water Commission; and

(14) Extends from December 31, 2009, to December 31, 2010, the authority of the commission to charge fees for construction permits, operating permits, and operator certifications related to water pollution control.

The bill contains an emergency clause for the provisions regarding construction of public drinking water and water pollution control projects from federal stimulus funds, analysis of landfill gas and greenhouse gas emissions as an alternative energy source, the authority for the department to enter into cooperative agreements to seek and obtain federal grants, and the extension of the commission's authority to charge fees for permits and certifications related to water pollution control.