

CCS SS SCS HB 734 -- NATURAL RESOURCES

This bill changes the laws regarding natural resources. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Extends from December 31, 2009, to December 31, 2010, the authority of the Clean Water Commission within the Department of Natural Resources to charge fees for construction permits, operating permits, and operator certifications related to water pollution control;

(2) Establishes a new fee schedule for distributors of fertilizer consisting of manipulated animal or vegetable manure based on the nitrogen content of the manure;

(3) Requires any appliance purchased with state funds to have earned the Energy Star rating under the federally sponsored Energy Star Program. The Commissioner of the Office of Administration is allowed to exempt an appliance from the requirement if the cost of compliance is expected to exceed the projected energy cost savings;

(4) Establishes the Joint Committee on Missouri's Energy Future which will consist of five members from the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and five members from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The committee will prepare and submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2009, on Missouri's energy needs to determine a strategy to ensure a plentiful, affordable, and clean supply of electricity to meet the needs of Missouri residents and businesses for the next 25 years and that they continue to benefit from low rates. The joint committee will be dissolved December 31, 2009;

(5) 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

(6) Exempts consumer electronics from the energy efficiency requirements of Sections 701.500 - 701.515, RSMo. The department must conduct a study and submit a report including recommendations concerning the energy efficiency of consumer electronic products by July 1, 2010, to the General Assembly. The report must be posted on the department's web site and made available to the public upon request. Standards must be established for appliances that do not have federally required minimum standards.

The bill contains an emergency clause for the provisions regarding the joint committee.