

HCS HB 1713 -- WASTEWATER TREATMENT

SPONSOR: Remole

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Utilities by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide any municipality or community currently served by a wastewater treatment system with information regarding options to upgrade the existing lagoon system to meet discharge requirements. The information must include available advanced technologies including biological treatment options. The municipality or community, or a third party it hires, may conduct an analysis, including feasibility and cost, of available options to meet the discharge requirements. If upgrading or expanding the existing system is feasible, cost effective and will meet the discharge requirements, the department must allow the entity to implement the option.

This bill contains an emergency clause.

PROponents: Supporters say that one of the largest concerns for rural communities is the cost of water and wastewater treatment. Many communities have to acquire large loans to finance upgrades to their wastewater treatment facilities. However, there are new and emerging technologies available for wastewater treatment and the department should provide information about all available options to communities and allow them to use the option that is most cost effective.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Remole; Flotron & McIntosh; and Missouri Municipal League.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill spoke about the technology available for wastewater treatment. The department also spoke about its Community Services Program, which works with communities to look at all the options available to them and find the most practical solutions.

Testifying on the bill were Vinay Patel, Enviro Science Technologies; Bo Higgins, Heartland Environmental Distributors; and Missouri Department Of Natural Resources.