

HB 1025 -- TRESPASS EXEMPTIONS TREE TRIMMING

SPONSOR: Black (137)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill modifies the definition of "electric supplier" as it relates to the trespass rules for trimming, removing, and controlling trees to include municipally owned electric power systems and utilities.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that municipally owned electric utilities have the ability through ordinances to trim trees and limbs outside of the utility easements that threaten power lines within city limits. However, if the power lines owned by the municipality are outside of the city limits, the linemen would be trespassing if they trim trees outside of the easement, which at times may be only as wide as the width of the power poles. This bill would allow linemen to trim all trees that threaten to damage power lines and would ensure reliable and safe power to the municipalities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Black; City Utilities of Springfield; Rodney P. Bourne, Rolla Municipal Utilities; Daniel Sheldon, City Of Waynesville; Mark Petty, City Of Kirkwood-Kirkwood Electric; Bruce Harrill, City of Waynesville; Darrell Dunlap, City of Fulton; and Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.