

HB 1097 -- EMERGENCY BRIDGE REPAIR

SPONSOR: Porter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill creates the "Emergency Bridge Repair and Replacement Fund," which consists of moneys appropriated from General Revenue to the Department of Transportation for accelerated bridge replacements or immediate repairs to bridges in critical disrepair.

This bill is the same as HCS HB 2153 (2018).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows Missouri the opportunity to put funds into an account to fix bridges in case of an emergency. An emergency is when a bridge closes due to its condition. The account for emergency bridge repair can be funded through FEMA, the General Revenue, and other options. This bill will prevent funds from being swept by future politicians. Supporters want money to fix bridges as soon as possible in emergency cases.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Porter.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that there are 10,385 bridges in Missouri and only three of those bridges were closed due to lack of funds. The bridge program needs money. Approximately 922 Missouri bridges are in bad condition.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Transportation.