

HCS SB 202 -- MINING ROYALTIES ON FEDERAL LAND

SPONSOR: Romine (Dinkins)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

Starting in fiscal year 2020, moneys disbursed to the office of Administration from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue within the U.S. Department of the Interior from mining royalties on federal land located within the state must be distributed on a proportional basis to each county in this state where the royalties accrued. The bill specifies how each county must allocate the funds.

This bill is similar to HB 460 (2019).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill would ensure that the mining royalties issued to the state are distributed fairly within the counties receiving the funds. Currently, the funds are being distributed by the Office of Administration in the same manner as the forestry funds received from the U.S. Department of Interior.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Romine; Benjamin Walczak, Doe Run; James J. Watts, Lesterville R-IV School District; Jim Scaggs; Nadia Parker; and Lance Mayfield.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.