

HB 827 -- FLOOD PREVENTION

SPONSOR: Riggs

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 15 to 0.

This bill specifies that the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) may enter into contracts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to lease any dredging equipment owned by the Corps that is not being currently used in order to dredge silt from rivers and streams for flood prevention purposes.

This bill is similar to HB 2489 (2020).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that in 2019 many counties in the state experienced catastrophic flooding that could have been helped by routine dredging. Dredging used to be a function of the Corps of Engineers but the mission of the Corps has expanded and it is not keeping up with the dredging. This bill would allow SEMA to contract with the Corps to use its equipment to help dredge rivers in the state to reduce flooding.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Riggs and Missouri Corn Growers Association. Additional written testimony was submitted in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.