

HB 182 -- OFFICIAL STATE GRASS

CO-SPONSORS: May, Viebrock, Moore

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 20 to 0.

This bill names the native grass known as "Big Bluestem" (*Andropogon gerardii*) as Missouri's official state grass.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that Big Bluestem is a native grass species that has played an important historic role in creating deep, rich prairie soils. It allows soils to hold water efficiently, reduces erosion, and provides quality forage for both native prairie wildlife and domestic livestock.

Testifying for the bill were Representative May; Josh Miller; Mitchell Spring; Christine Schmidgall; Department of Conservation; Kimberly Thompson; Daniel Almekinder; Brody Cadwallader; Cody Whitman; Andrea Sherod; Drew Hagni; Shane Brazzle; Autumn Bumgardner; Rachel Hawley; Sarah Sagel; Samantha Davis; Anthony Miller; Tony Palermo; Brittany Smith; Michelle Sharp; Jayne Macormic; Brittany Dodd; Zach Underwood; Alexandria Skriver; Brooke Stevenson; Jessica Perona; James Trager; Missouri Native Plant Society; and Missouri Prairie Foundation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Terry Finger, Senior Legislative Analyst