

## HB 822 -- AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: Rector (Luetkemeyer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Communications, Energy and Technology by a vote of 18 to 0.

This bill prohibits political subdivisions from enacting or enforcing any ordinance that does not comply with the limited preemption of the Federal Communications Commission Amateur Radio Preemption order. Any ordinance relating to the placement, screening, or height of an amateur radio antenna based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must reasonably accommodate amateur communications and be of minimal practicable regulation.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill implements protections for amateur radio operators so that they can put up their antennas in certain areas of the state, allowing them to continue communicating during emergencies, thereby protecting citizens. They do not receive any compensation for the service they provide, and their operations do not conflict with the communications industry. They assist the National Weather Service in storm spotting. They also assess damage and work with the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Office of Homeland Security, and the United States Department of Defense. Last year, amateur radio operators were valuable during the tornado season. In an emergency, cell phone towers and telephone lines can be incapacitated, but amateur radio operators are still able to communicate. They are extremely important to the welfare of Missourians, which is often underestimated.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Luetkemeyer and Selby; American Radio Relay League; American Radio Relay League Emergency Coordinator for Camden County; Amateur Radio Emergency Service; Richard Crockett; and Rodger Volk.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst