

HB 956 -- OFFICIAL STATE GRASS

SPONSOR: May

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 18 to 0.

This bill names "Big Bluestem" as the official state grass.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the grass grows three to nine feet high, and the root system grows 15 feet into the soil which helps keep soil erosion down. It also promotes a rich soil basis when the root system is broken down naturally. This grass also is beneficial to birds by providing cover.

Testifying for the bill were Representative May; Meaghan Dorroh, Nabeel Chowohury, and Daniel Vidal Galarza, Truman Elementary School students; and Department of Conservation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Marc Webb, Legislative Analyst