

HCS SB 192 -- HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

SPONSOR: Engler (Robinson)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 13 to 0.

Currently, law enforcement officers who seize hazardous materials as evidence are allowed to collect representative samples and destroy or dispose of the materials with court approval. This substitute authorizes law enforcement officials to dispose of hazardous materials upon the proper documentation without court approval. In any prosecution, representative samples of hazardous materials accompanied by photos, video tapes, lab reports, or other means are admissible and deemed competent evidence to verify the identity and quantity of the material because of the danger posed by exposure to the hazardous materials.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill helps to prosecute drug cases by allowing the introduction of hazardous material samples in court.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Engler; and Office of the Attorney General.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst