

HCS HB 1137 -- ALTERNATIVE FUEL AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Bivins (Darrough)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Energy and Environment by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Clean American Fuel Board consisting of eight members, seven of whom are voting members and represent various industries and coalitions concerned with the use of alternative fuel and alternative fuel vehicles. The Director of the Department of Natural Resources is an ex officio member and will serve as the chairman. The department will provide needed staff and aid the board in carrying out its duties. The qualifications and terms of the appointed members are specified.

The board is required to establish and administer policies to promote individual, industrial, and governmental compliance with the United States Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency and report by January 1, 2007, and every year thereafter, to the General Assembly, Governor, Department of Transportation, and Department of Natural Resources on a calculation of fuel cost differential rebates and designation of certified conversion and original equipment manufacturer technologies.

The Alternative Fuel Vehicle Revolving Fund is created for the deposit of appropriated money and other donations. The board will administer the distribution of grants to qualifying applicants for alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure projects, education, and alternative fuel vehicles. The applicant requirements, grant uses, and grant amounts are specified.

The provisions of the substitute will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will encourage the use of alternative fuels, reduce dependance on foreign oil, allow Missouri to receive federal grants, and result in both economic and environmental benefits.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Darrough; Kevin Herdler, St. Louis Energy; National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition; Magi Foundation; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Kansas City Regional Clean Cities Coalition; and Missouri Soybean Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it will be able to accommodate the chairperson position created by the bill.

Others testifying on the bill was Department of Natural Resources.

Jason Glahn, Legislative Analyst