

HB 1144 -- OFFICIAL STATE GRASS

SPONSOR: May

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill designates Big Bluestem as the official state grass.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the big bluestem is native to Missouri and is the signature grass of the prairie. It can grow to a height of nine feet and prevents soil erosion. The big bluestem has historical significance for the state because early Missourians survived by consuming it.

Testifying for the bill were Representative May; Maggie Croft; Nikki Look; Joseph Lasky; Haley Breen; Patricia Gipperich; and Department of Conservation.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst