

HCS HB 298 -- MISSOURI BLASTING SAFETY ACT

SPONSOR: Wasson (Cooper, 120)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing by a vote of 8 to 1.

This substitute establishes the Missouri Blasting Safety Act. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires any person using explosives in this state to hold a blaster's license or be supervised by a person holding a blaster's license issued by the Division of Fire Safety within the Department of Public Safety;
- (2) Establishes certain criteria to be met by applicants prior to the issuance of a license;
- (3) Authorizes the division to suspend, revoke, or deny licenses but allows for an appeal process through the State Blasting Safety Board which is established;
- (4) Requires a person whose license has expired for more than three years to take the licensing exam and complete the continuing education requirements prior to being reissued a license;
- (5) Allows for license reciprocity and certain licensing exemptions;
- (6) Authorizes the division to adopt rules creating a standardized qualification examination, continuing education requirements, and a fee structure;
- (7) Specifies requirements for blasting activity, including the use of a seismograph recording;
- (8) Requires all persons using explosives in this state to register with the State Fire Marshal within 60 days of the effective date of the substitute, pay a fee, and file an annual report stating their blasting activities from the previous year;
- (9) Creates within the state treasury the Missouri Explosives Safety Act Administration Fund to be expended by the State Fire Marshal for administration and enforcement costs;
- (10) Requires any person using explosives in this state to notify the division at least two business days in advance before blasting at a new site; and

(11) Exempts St. Charles County from the provisions of the substitute.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$12,685 to Unknown in FY 2008, \$5,674 to Unknown in FY 2009, and \$1,489 to Unknown in FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there are currently no state regulations regarding blasting and excavating in Missouri. The bill will standardize blasting activities and restrictions and allow municipalities to enact local rules without regulating the technical aspects of blasting.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cooper (120); Missouri Limestone Producers Association; Ed Twehous, Twehous Excavating Company, Incorporated; Associated General Contractors of Missouri, Incorporated; Mining Industry Council of Missouri; and Associated General Contractors of St. Louis.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.