

SCS HCS HB 298 -- MISSOURI BLASTING SAFETY ACT

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

- (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 in the bill;
- (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 anyone using explosives in this state to register with the State Fire Marshal within 60 days of the effective date of the bill, pay a fee, and file an annual report listing his or her blasting activities from the previous year;
- (9) Creates within the state treasury the Missouri Explosives Safety Act Administration Fund to be used by the State Fire Marshal for administrative and enforcement costs;
- (10) Requires anyone using explosives in this state to notify the division at least two business days before blasting at a new site; and
- (11) Exempts the counties of St. Charles and St. Louis from the provisions of the bill.

An individual who violates any provision of the bill will be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 for a first violation

and up to \$5,000 for a subsequent violation. Anyone blasting without a license will be guilty of a class B misdemeanor for a first offense and a class A misdemeanor for a subsequent offense. Anyone convicted of a class A misdemeanor relating to these provisions will be permanently prohibited from obtaining a blaster's license.