

SCS HCS HB 426 -- PROPANE SAFETY

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

- (1) Establishes the nine-member Missouri Propane Gas Commission within the Department of Agriculture and specifies the criteria for membership, term of office, and procedures for removal from office;
- (2) Requires the commission to employ a director and allows the commission to hire additional staff;
- (3) Authorizes the commission to regulate propane under Chapter 323, RSMo, establish rules in accordance with Section 323.020, and conduct hearings and regulate disputes arising under the chapter;
- (4) Requires the commission to undertake various functions including the development of propane safety plans; the receipt of private and federal funds; the preparation of an annual report of its activities to the department, Governor, and General Assembly; and the general supervision and representation of the State of Missouri regarding all matters under Chapter 323;
- (5) Authorizes the department director to conduct investigations, subpoena witnesses, require attendance at hearings, inspect premises, produce reports, impose specified civil penalties, and issue cease and desist orders;
- (6) Specifies the criteria for establishing an initial per-gallon fee to owners of odorized propane for the funding of inspections of propane installations and allows the commission and department director to change the fee structure as specified in the bill;
- (7) Allows the commission to establish fees for permits, licenses, and certificates required by Chapter 323 and to change the fee structure every two years;
- (8) Creates the Propane Inspection Fund to be used solely for the enforcement of Chapter 323 and prohibits the use of moneys from this fund for lobbying; and
- (9) Allows any political subdivision to establish licensing requirements for persons who install, repair, replace, or maintain liquefied petroleum gas or any other fuel gas piping system but prohibits them from adopting any local law in conflict with state requirements for liquefied petroleum gases.