

HB 426 -- Propane Safety

Sponsor: Parson

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

- (1) Establishes the seven-member Missouri Propane Safety 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, promulgate 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, and the general supervision and representation of Missouri in all matters arising under Chapter 323;
- (5) Authorizes the director to conduct investigations, subpoena witnesses, require attendance at hearings, inspect premises, and produce reports;
- (6) Specifies the criteria for setting an initial fee for the funding of inspections of propane installations and allows the commission and director to change the fee structure as specified in the bill;
- (7) Allows the commission to set fees for permits, licenses, and certificates required by Chapter 323 and to change the fee structure every two years;
- (8) Requires funds to be used solely for the enforcement of Chapter 323 and prohibits the use of funds for lobbying; and
- (9) Allows the director to impose specified civil penalties and issue cease and desist orders.