

HCS HB 845 -- VOTER REGISTRATION

SPONSOR: Tilley (Dixon)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 6 to 1.

This substitute requires the Office of the Secretary of State to request the database of all applicants for hunting and fishing licenses from the Department of Conservation on a monthly basis beginning September 1, 2007. The Secretary of State is required to compare the license applicant list against the database of registered voters and to mail a voter registration application to any applicant who is an eligible, nonregistered voter.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$69,627 in FY 2008, \$71,967 in FY 2009, and \$74,126 in FY 2010. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of Less than \$100,000 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill expands voter rights and is an integral part of the democratic process. Currently, Missouri citizens can register to vote simultaneously while applying for a driver's license. The bill makes registering to vote easier by making voter registration applications available through contact with the Department of Conservation. The bill could expand voting to 1.2 million fishers and 900,000 hunters and trappers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dixon; and National Rifle Association of America.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the Department of Conservation's point-of-sale permit database conducts 2.6 million transactions per year. Many third-party vendors partner with the department to make the permits available. If the 1,300 business partners are required to take on additional administrative duties, including taking custody of voter applications and advising applicants of their right to register, the businesses are less likely to participate in the permit vendor program.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Conservation.