

SS SCS SB 225 -- HUNTING HERITAGE PROTECTION AREAS ACT

SPONSOR: Stouffer (Munzlinger)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute establishes the Hunting Heritage Protection Areas Act which specifies that, subject to all applicable state, federal, and local laws in effect as of the effective date of the substitute, the discharge of a fire arm for hunting, sport, and other lawful purposes will not be prohibited in specified protected areas. Protected areas will include all land located within the 100-year flood plain of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Areas exempt from the provisions of the substitute include:

- (1) Areas designated as urbanized areas by the 2000 United States census;
- (2) Land used by a facility that is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- (3) Land used for the operation of a port of commerce or a customs port;
- (4) Land within the city boundaries of Kansas City or St. Louis; and
- (5) Land located within one-half mile of an interstate highway in existence on the effective date of the substitute.

New tax increment financing (TIF) projects are prohibited after the effective date of the substitute, except for:

- (1) Improving existing flood or drainage protection; and
- (2) Constructing or operating a renewable fuel production facility if no new development occurs as a result of the project.

TIF projects or districts approved prior to the effective date of the substitute are allowed to make certain modifications.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill preserves migratory bird habitats and increases the economic opportunities of the hunting industry while prohibiting a taxpayer's money from being

spent on projects located in the 100-year flood plain. Private investments in projects in the flood plain are unaffected.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Stouffer; and National Rifle Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that towns located in the 100-year flood plain need to be able to prohibit hunting within their borders.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Municipal League.