

SJR 45 -- STORM WATER CONTROL GRANTS AND LOANS

SPONSOR: Clemens (Hobbs)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 7 to 0.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment changes the laws regarding the issuance of grants and loans to the City of St. Louis and any first classification county by the Department of Natural Resources for storm water control. In its main provisions, the amendment:

- (1) Requires water and sewer districts to be public water or sewer districts in order to receive grants and loans from the department for storm water control projects;
- (2) Removes the limitation on the percentage of grants versus loans that can be offered by the department for storm water control projects;
- (3) Removes the requirement that department grants be limited to 50% of the cost of a storm water control project;
- (4) Establishes a system for awarding grants and loans by requiring an initial offering to all eligible recipients so that any non-accepted funds may be re-offered to recipients that request additional funding; and
- (5) Creates a fund which will consist of repayments of storm water loans and interest to finance storm water control plans, studies, and projects. Unexpended balances are not subject to biennial transfer to the General Revenue Fund, and the storm water fund will retain any earned interest.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill corrects current laws that do not take into consideration an Internal Revenue Service regulation that hinders grants and loans available to storm water control districts. The bill will assist those districts in collecting tax-free grants and loans.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Clemens; Department of Natural Resources; Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District; Missouri Municipal League; and Missouri Society of Professional Engineers.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.