

HB 7 -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON DISASTER FUNDING

SPONSOR: Silvey

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Budget by a vote of 22 to 1.

This bill establishes the Joint Committee on Disaster Funding to oversee the expenditure of moneys for disaster recovery appropriated from the Budget Reserve Fund or other sources as authorized by law. The committee will consist of five members from the Senate Appropriations Committee appointed by the President Pro Tem and five members from the House of Representatives Budget Committee appointed by the Speaker. The majority party may have only three members from the House of Representatives and three from the Senate.

During any year in which moneys are appropriated and expended that are subject to the committee's oversight, the committee must submit a report of its activities to the General Assembly on or before January 15 of the following year.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill establishes a joint committee to oversee the use of the Rainy Day Fund. Currently, the fund balance is approximately \$500,000,000, and it is not being used for its intended purpose which is to help fund disaster relief. There may be a reluctance to use the fund because of the three-year pay-back period with interest. Other states have more lenient standards that Missouri should look into adopting. It would be better to use this fund as intended and spread the fiscal cost over three years instead of just one.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Silvey; and Missouri Budget Project.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.