

HCS HB 1302 -- WOOD BURNING HEATERS AND APPLIANCES

SPONSOR: Remole

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Tourism and Natural Resources by a vote of 20 to 3.

This bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from regulating the manufacture, performance, or use of residential wood burning heaters or appliances through a state implementation plan or otherwise, unless authorized to do so by the General Assembly. No rule or regulation establishing or the enforcing performance standards for residential wood burning heaters or appliances may become effective unless first approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

No new rules or regulations may be applied to existing wood burning furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, or heaters that individuals are currently using as their source of heat for their homes or businesses. All wood burning furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, and heaters existing on August 28, 2014 may not be subject to any rules or regulations. No employee of the state or state agency can enforce any new rules or regulations against such existing wood burning furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, and heaters.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that no manufacturer will be able to meet the new federal regulations on wood stoves and furnaces and the testing to ensure compliance is cost prohibitive. This bill is a proactive step to ensure that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources will not be the agency to enforce the new regulations in the state. Supporters also mentioned the current increasing costs of propane and other energy sources while the state has an abundant supply of wood for heating homes and businesses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Remole; Reg Kelly, Earth Manufacturing; Dale Deraps, Phillip Todd; Stacy Shore; Harold Smith; Missouri Family Network; and Missouri Forest Products Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.