

HCS SS SB 35 -- PURCHASES OF LAND BY THE STATE

SPONSOR: Cunningham (Ross)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill requires that when the Commissioner of the Office of Administration contracts to purchase lands on behalf of any state agency or the Department of Natural Resources contracts to purchase lands, and the purchase is for 60 acres or more or exceeds \$250,000 in a single transaction, the department that will own or manage the lands must take certain actions including providing public notice on its website, to elected officials, and in a newspaper, holding a public hearing in affected counties, and providing public notice of the public hearing as specified in the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that in recent years, the state has purchased land without notifying key stakeholders of the purchase. This bill would provide transparency for large land purchases by state agencies and departments.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Cunningham and the Missouri Press Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.