

SS SB 293 -- FEE FOR THE USE OF EXPLOSIVES

SPONSOR: Romine (Engler)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 1.

Currently, the fee paid to the Division of Fire Safety for using explosives may be set by rule, but shall not exceed \$2 per ton. This bill requires that the fee shall not exceed \$7.50 per ton and any fee established by rule shall not yield revenue greater than the cost of administering the Missouri Blasting Safety Act. Such fee shall not apply to any entity regulated under the Surface Coal Mining Law.

This is similar to HB 571 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this increase is needed to pay for the inspections. This increase is supported by the blasting industry. Everyone agrees that the inspections are necessary to protect the safety of Missouri citizens.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Romine; Missouri Limestone Producers Association; and Edward Twehous, Twehous Excavating Company, Incorporated.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill answered questions about the amount of explosives used in Missouri each year.

Testifying on the bill was Greg Carrell, Missouri State Fire Marshal.