

SB 649 -- MISSOURI BLASTING SAFETY ACT

SPONSOR: Romine

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

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the current fee was passed over a decade ago and does not cover the cost for the Department of Public Safety to administer the program. This bill would allow the department to raise the fee, but only high enough to cover the cost of the program.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Romine; Missouri Limestone Producers Association; and Continental Coal Inc.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill made themselves available to answer questions from the committee.

Testifying on the bill was Stephen Grass, Missouri Division of Fire Safety.