

HCS HB 1158 -- DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Pietzman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide assistance to small business permit applicants throughout the permitting process by designating one or more people who are trained in the process to assist applicants. The staff must be trained in the permit application process, but not involved in the review or approval of permits. No later than January 1, 2020, the department must post on its website exemplars of completed and approved permit applications.

If the department fails to provide the required assistance, the department must reduce the fees associated with each permit it issues to the applicant by an amount equal to the costs the applicant incurred to seek assistance from outside sources.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that for smaller companies and individuals, the permit process is cumbersome and complicated. The department should be more helpful and forthcoming with what information is necessary to complete the permit applications and with alternatives for an applicant.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pietzman; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Limestone Producers Association; and Fred W. Jost.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the department has a permit assistance program on its website to help permit applicants know which permits are necessary for their projects. The department should not be doing the job of a professional engineering company for applicants.

Testifying against the bill was John Madras, Sierra Club.