

HCS HB 1673 -- RADIOACTIVE WASTE INVESTIGATION FUND

SPONSOR: Matthiesen

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1673.

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources must use the Radioactive Waste Investigation Fund to investigate concerns of waste exposure submitted by a local governing body. This bill allows the Department to determine sites for investigation based on criteria specified in the bill. The bill also requires the Department to prioritize the information and develop a plan as to how any investigation will proceed.

The Department may hold meetings related to organization and data collection. All final reports will be public after a public comment period on the preliminary report of at least 90 days.

This bill specifies that the investigation may include collection of soil, dust, and water samples from the area. If the Department suspects that radioactive contaminants are on a property owned by a governmental agency that will not grant access for the investigation, the Department must seek a warrant to access the property.

Currently, the General Assembly can transfer up to \$150,000 to the Fund to be used by the Department of Natural Resources to investigate concerns of exposure to radioactive waste. The bill also increases the amount of money the General Assembly can transfer to the fund from the Hazardous Waste Fund to \$1 million and limits the expenditures per fiscal year to \$1 million transferred from the Hazardous Waste Fund and any additional General Revenue appropriated.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Missouri is home to legacy radioactive waste from the Manhattan Project. This bill would allow the additional money to be allocated to investigating exposure concerns related to radioactive waste. It also allows the

Department to use additional sampling methods as part of any investigation.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Matthiesen; and Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that \$150,000 will allow the Department to do approximately three investigations depending on the complexity of the investigation. The Department also spoke about what an investigation would entail.

Testifying in person on the bill was TJ Graven, Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.