

HCS HB 488 -- THE CLEAN WATER COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

SPONSOR: Van Schoiack

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 488.

Currently, the Clean Water Commission must have one member who is knowledgeable about the needs of publicly owned water treatment works. This bill allows more than one member with this knowledge to be appointed to the Commission and requires the Commission to establish rules of procedure that specify when members must exempt themselves due to a potential conflict of interest.

The bill also repeals the requirement that no member can receive, or have received for the past two years, a significant portion of his or her income from certain permit holders or permit applicants.

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 this bill allows more representation from those with knowledge about the regulated industries. Also the prohibition on receiving a significant portion of one's income from permittees reduces the amount of people eligible to serve on the Commission. By repealing this provision, the bill allows recent retirees to serve.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Van Schoiack; Arnie C. Dienoff; Missouri American Water; Jay Hoskins, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District; Missouri American Water; Missouri Association Of Municipal Utilities; Missouri Municipal League.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that they are concerned about conflicts of interest if the commissioners receive a significant portion of their income from permitted entities.

Testifying in person against the bill was Michael Berg, Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

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.