SS SB 1033 -- THE REGULATION OF AIR QUALITY

SPONSOR: Bean

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 19 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies the provisions relating to the regulation of air quality.

EXPENDITURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Sections 640.220 and 643.350)

The bill requires that, before June 30, 2027, any unexpended balance in the subaccounts of the Natural Resources Protection Fund exceeding the preceding biennium's collections revert to the General Revenue Fund at the end of each biennium. Beginning July 1, 2027, any unexpended balance in the subaccounts of the natural resources protection fund that exceeds the preceding biennium's collections will not revert to the General Revenue Fund.

Beginning July 1, 2027, and annually on July 1st of each year thereafter, the Commissioner of Administration must use taxable sales reports to estimate the amount of state general revenue sales and use tax derived from electric power distribution in the previous calendar year and report the amount to the State Treasurer. The Treasurer must transfer certain amounts from the general revenue sales, as specified in the bill.

The bill repeals provisions relating to the transfer of funds from the Missouri Air Emission Reduction Fund.

MOTOR VEHICLES EMISSION INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS (Section 643.315)

The bill provides that motor vehicle emissions inspection requirements do not apply to motor vehicles over 10 years old that are registered as local commercial vehicles and used for farm or farming transportation operations, or that are otherwise defined as covered farm vehicles under Federal law.

COTTON GINS (Section 643.675)

The bill specifies that an owner or operator of a cotton gin that not a class A source of air contaminants is not required to

submit air dispersion modeling to the Department of Natural Resources to obtain a construction permit for the cotton gin.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that traditionally, the Air Pollution Control Program has been funded by fees on air pollution sources, but due to the pollution reduction efforts of industry, the revenue generated no longer covers program operations. This bill would help keep the program solvent by stopping fund sweeps and moving revenue from other funds. In addition, this bill would provide an exemption to the vehicle emissions testing program for farm vehicles, which are driven very few miles and are expensive to retrofit with pollution control equipment. Supporters further state the provisions exempting cotton gins from air dispersion modeling will help Missouri compete with neighboring states for new and expanded gins. Cotton is only produced in five counties in southeast Missouri and the harvested cotton is transported to neighboring states for ginning.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Bean; Missouri Concrete Association ; Missouri Mining Industry Council; Cotton Producers of Missouri; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Farm Bureau; Infra; Missouri Soybean; American Council of Engineering Companies - Mo; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Missouri Forest Products; Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say without the changes in the funding for the program, the program will be insolvent by fiscal year 2028.

Testifying in person on the bill was Aly Gatwood, 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.