SS#2 SCS SB 1586 -- SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

SPONSOR: Brown (26)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 7 to 5. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill modifies and creates new provisions relating to solid waste management.

Under the bill, no person can transfer title to any property containing a solid waste disposal site or demolition landfill without disclosing the sale, conveyance, or transfer to the Department of Natural Resources. The seller must inform the buyer with a written notice signed and dated by the seller early in the negotiation process about the existence and location of the disposal or landfill site. If the seller fails to send the written notice to the buyer, the buyer can cancel the sale and the seller will return to the buyer any earnest money paid by the buyer to the seller.

After October 1, 2027, an annual adjustment of fees collected for solid waste accepted will be based on the percentage increase measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the preceding year.

The Department will have the authority to assess, investigate, test, remediate, and manage abandoned solid waste disposal areas.

Fifty-one percent, instead of 61% as currently provided, of revenue must be used to fund the operating costs of the Department.

Ten percent of revenue must be allocated to the Department for remediation of abandoned solid waste disposal areas. If there are no more abandoned solid waste disposal areas left in the state in any given year, the percentage of revenue used to fund the operating costs of the Department must increase to 61%.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are currently a number of landfills across Missouri that are unkempt, and the resultant toxic runoff can cause an environmental disaster leading to cancer-causing agents for those who drink any contaminated water. Supporters also state that our current regulatory structure does

not allow for meaningful change, because our statutory authority that gives the Department any direction on clean-up, investigations, or prosecutions for wrongdoers is lacking. This failure to address the problem is decades in the making.

Testifying in person for the bill was Senator Brown.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the reduction of funds that this bill contemplates would not adequately allow staff that work for solid waste districts to properly maintain those districts. Opponents further state that most districts around the state are already trying to make do with a small staff, and any cuts to the program would only further hamper those efforts. Opponents also state that investigations and remediations need to be done, but if we do not know how much those efforts will cost, then cutting the program would be inappropriate.

Testifying in person against the bill were Dianna Bryant, Mid America Regional Council: Solid Waste Management District E; Chris Bussen, Solid Waste Advisory Board of Missouri; and Arnie Dienoff.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the solid waste districts do good work. Allowing local districts to make decisions on how best to operate is a more efficient route to take.

Testifying in person on the bill was Lacey Miller, Marion County, Solid Waste Reg. G.

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.