

HB 841 -- CONTAINERS ON WATERCRAFT

SPONSOR: Angst

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 17 to 1.

This bill prohibits food or beverage containers made of glass from being transported on the waters of the state in watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, or inner tubes which are susceptible to swamping or tipping. Persons carrying appropriately packaged beverages or food on the waters of the state in these watercraft are required to use a cooler, icebox, or other nonglass container which floats. Containers are to be sealed and carried affixed to the watercraft. All trash is to be lawfully disposed.

Any person who violates the provisions of the bill is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill makes the waterways safer by prohibiting glass containers in certain vessels that tend to tip, roll, or overturn. The broken glass from tipped vessels causes injury to people wading in the waterways.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Angst and Wilson (119); Robert Burns; Missouri Canoe and Floaters' Association; and Pulaski County Canoe Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Julie Jinkens McNitt, Legislative Analyst