

HCS HB 1858 -- MINORITY AND UNDERREPRESENTED ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Ruzicka (Zimmerman)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, the Minority Environmental Literacy Advisory Committee within the Department of Natural Resources administers the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program which awards scholarships to ethnic groups who are most severely underrepresented as determined by data gathered by the National Academy of Sciences in specified academic areas. This substitute transfers the administrative responsibility of this program and the committee to the Department of Higher Education.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that appropriations for the Minority and Underrepresented Environmental Literacy Program have already been transferred to the Department of Higher Education. The bill will transfer the administration of the program to the appropriate department.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Zimmerman; and Department of Natural Resources.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill answered questions regarding the difference between the transfer of this program and the proposal to transfer the Large Animal Veterinarian Scholarship Program during the 2009 session.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Farm Bureau.