

SCS SB 835 -- REGULATION OF FIREWORKS

SPONSOR: Kehoe (Bernskoetter)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 9 to 0.

This substitute changes references to fireworks classifications by referencing the Code of Federal Regulations when defining consumer fireworks, display fireworks, fireworks, and proximate fireworks. The substitute specifies that ground salutes, commonly known as cherry bombs, M-80's, M-100's, and M-1,000's, which exceed the limits set for consumer fireworks, display fireworks, or proximate fireworks for explosive composition, are prohibited in Missouri for consumer use. These provisions do not prohibit a manufacturer, distributor, or any other person possessing the proper permits as specified by state and federal law from storing, selling, shipping, or otherwise transporting fireworks.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill aligns the state's laws regarding fireworks with federal laws. Federal law reclassified the larger shells used in public displays in 2009 which caused the state law to prohibit the shells which were previously legal. The bill will correct this, and the emergency clause will allow municipalities to have firework displays in time for the July 4 holiday.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kehoe; Missouri Fireworks Association; and Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.