

HB 51 -- Water Quality Standards for Swimming Beaches

Sponsor: Miller

This bill requires Missouri state parks' designated swim beaches to utilize a standard that measures E. coli using the federal Environmental Protection Agency's Method 1603, or an equivalent method that measures culturable E. coli, at a geometric mean based on weekly sampling over a 30-day period of a specified number of forming units and statistical threshold value.

If a beach exceeds the established geometric mean standard, the Department of Natural Resources must post signs stating "Swimming is Not Recommended." If a beach exceeds the established statistical threshold value standard, two additional tests are required. If either of the retests exceeds the standard, the department must post signs stating "Swimming is Not Recommended" until both tests are below the standard.

The state reserves the right to close a beach in the event of a documented health risk including, but not limited to, wastewater by-pass, spills of hazardous chemicals, or localized outbreaks of an infectious disease.