

HB 686 -- MINING PERMITS

SPONSOR: Richardson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 12 to 1.

Currently, the Land Reclamation Commission within the Department of Natural Resources may deny a surface mining permit if it finds in any hearing, based on competent and substantial scientific evidence, that the interested party's health, safety, or livelihood would be unduly impaired by the issuance of the permit. This bill specifies that it must be in a public hearing and removes the provision placing the burden of proof on the permit applicant.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is needed to clarify existing law regarding mining permit challenges that has been misinterpreted by the courts.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Richardson; Missouri Limestone Producers; Richard Brownlee, Missouri Mining Council; Mississippi Lime Company; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Associated General Contractors of Missouri, Incorporated; Mining Industry Council of Missouri; and Associated Industries of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.