

HB 1179 -- MAJOR WATER USERS

SPONSOR: Hampton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Rural Community Development by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill prohibits any major water user from conveying water withdrawn or diverted from within the Southeast Missouri Regional Water District to a location outside of the water district if it interferes with the reasonable and customary activities of another registered major water user within the district. If a conveyance occurs, the Attorney General or the party or parties affected may file an action for an injunction. In no case can the injunction be issued if it would be detrimental to public health or safety. A "major water user" is defined as a person, firm, corporation, or an entity of the state with a water source and equipment necessary to withdraw or divert 100,000 gallons or more of water per day from any water source.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide a means of tracking and projecting water usage.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hampton; Department of Natural Resources; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.