

HB 92 -- WATERS OF THE STATE

SPONSOR: Miller

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Select Committee on Rules by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill changes the definition of "waters of the state" by removing waters of the United States lying within the state from the definition.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the proposed rule from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers changing the definition of waters of the United States is confusing and as a part of the definition of waters of the state would add confusion to who needs to apply for a permit under the Missouri Clean Water Law.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Miller; Associated Industries of Missouri; Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Agribusiness Association; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Missouri Municipal League; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Missouri Association of Counties; Robert J. Brundage, Newman, Comley and Ruth; Missouri Pork Association; and Missouri Federation of Animal Owners.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that Missouri has delegated authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement the federal Clean Water Act. The Department of Natural Resources believes that the current state rules and the definition of waters of the state would encompass all waters that the state must regulate.

Testifying on the bill was Leanne Tippet Mosby, Department of Natural Resources, Division Of Environmental Quality.