

HCS HB 119 -- NOTICE TO CEASE FLUORIDATION

SPONSOR: Lichtenegger

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill requires public water systems under Chapter 640, RSMo, and water supply districts under Chapter 247 to notify the Department of Health and Senior Services, Department of Natural Resources, and its customers, at least 90 days prior to any meeting held at which a vote to modify the fluoridation of water in the system or district will occur. If the water system is an investor-owned water supply, the entity calling for the modifications is responsible for the meeting and the notice requirements.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that many small communities are discontinuing fluoridation of the public drinking water due to budget concerns, but are not notifying customers of the change. Fluoride helps promote oral health, and the bill will make water customers aware of changes in the amount of fluoride provided by the water supply.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lichtenegger; Missouri American Water; Missouri Coalition For Oral Health Inc; and Missouri Dental Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.