

HCS HB 1717 -- NOTICE TO CEASE FLUORIDATION

SPONSOR: Lichtenegger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 11 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.

This bill is the same as HB 119 (2015).

PROPOSERS: 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; Gary Harbison, Missouri Coalition For Oral Health Inc; Missouri Dental Association; and Dental Quest.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill said that the Department of Natural Resources is prohibited by statute from requiring or prohibiting fluoridation of a public water supply. The information the department would receive based on this bill would only be used as informational and would be placed in the file of a public water supply.

Testifying on the bill was the Department Of Natural Resources.