

HB 1863 with HCA 1 and HCA 2 -- EMERGENCY VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

SPONSOR: Korman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill adds building officials, building inspectors employed by local governments, and other qualified individuals to the list of volunteers for the emergency volunteer program to be administered by the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency in the event of a disaster. Volunteers may offer use of their services or equipment for up to five days for in-state deployments, and they may be eligible for out-of-state deployments. Volunteers will help local jurisdictions determine whether affected structures may remain occupied, must be restricted in use, or must be unoccupied pending demolition.

HCA #1: This amendment changes the list of volunteers for the emergency volunteer program to include any individual who has been certified by the State Emergency Management Agency and who performs his or her duties under the direction of an architect, rather than limiting it to building officials and building inspectors employed by local governments.

HCA #2: This amendment adds urban search and rescue task forces to the list of agencies that may request volunteer assistance. This amendment further adds a definition for "urban search and rescue task force."

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will help state agencies better respond during emergency situations.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Korman; Ben Ross, Save Coalition; Missouri Society of Professional Engineers; and Architects Institute of America-MO.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that they are available to answer questions.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys.