

HCS HB 1989 -- WATERWAYS TRUST FUND

SPONSOR: Ruth

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Attraction and Retention by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Commerce by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill creates the Waterways Trust Fund. The proceeds of specified state sales taxes and fees collected by the Department of Revenue, as well as any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received by the state for the fund, will be deposited in the trust fund for use by Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for grants to local port authorities or regional port coordination agencies. Upon appropriation, the funds may only be withdrawn on and after July 1, 2017.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill would provide a sustainable source of funds so as to make port authorities more secure, and foster Missouri's potential to be a national waterway distribution center.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ruth; Jim Berbeich; Alexander J. Schwent; Ralph Martin, Missouri Port Authority Association; Cheryl Ball, Missouri Department of Transportation; and the Missouri Chamber Of Commerce And Industry.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say critical agricultural industries depend on secure water traffic.

Testifying on the bill were the Missouri Soybean Association and the Missouri Corn Growers Association.