

HCS HB 1300 -- BOAT TITLE AND REGISTRATION FEES

SPONSOR: Conway (104)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Budget by a vote of 22 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, the first \$2 million collected annually from boat title and registration fees is deposited into the State General Revenue Fund, with the remainder going to the Water Patrol Division of the State Highway Patrol. Beginning July 1, 2019, this bill changes that requirement to having the first \$1 million collected annually from boat title and registration fees be deposited into the State General Revenue Fund. All fees collected in excess of that must be deposited into the Water Patrol Division Fund to be used exclusively for the Water Patrol Division of the State Highway Patrol.

This bill is similar to HB 192 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will provide increased funding for the Water Patrol Division of the State Highway Patrol. Currently, the General Revenue Fund must supplement the fund if not enough funds are available. The fund is projected to have a deficit in Fiscal Years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Conway.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say fees are reduced in winter months and expenditures are running more than revenue received from fees. The fund pays for staffing and equipment. When the fund is low, staffing adjustments are made to help shift the expenditures to other funds.

Testifying on the bill was Joe Armistead, Missouri State Highway Patrol.