

HB 2342 -- DNR FINES

SPONSOR: Morris (140)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 7 to 1 with 1 voting present.

This bill requires, that in all instances where the Department of Natural Resources has authority to issue fines or penalties and determines that a fine or penalty should be levied, the department is required to provide information specified in the bill to the alleged violator in order for him or her to understand the basis for the fine or penalty.

This bill is the same as SB 878 (2020).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that an alleged violator should be informed of the statute or regulation that the department believes has been violated and should also know exactly how the fine was derived. This bill would provide transparency to the process of issuing and negotiating a penalty between the alleged violator and the department.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Morris and the Associated Industries Of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that in recent years the numbers of violations issued by the department has decreased. The department works with entities to bring them into compliance. However, when a violation is issued, the department is already providing this information and penalties are calculated based on a matrix in regulation.

Testifying on the bill were John Madras, Sierra Club; and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.