

HB 138 -- DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SPONSOR: Pietzman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill specifies that it is the policy of the Department of Natural Resources to assist applicants throughout the application and permitting process by designating one or more people who are trained in the process to assist applicants. The Department must maintain a permit assistance portal on its website and must provide a link to the portal to all permit applicants. The Department must track that number of requests for assistance submitted through the portal and the timeliness of responses provided to applicants.

No later than January 1, 2022, the Department must post on its website exemplars of completed permit applications for the most common permits issued by the Department.

The Department must regularly track the number of days for permit applications to be determined to be complete.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1804 (2020).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that for smaller companies and individuals, the permit process is cumbersome and complicated. The Department should be more helpful and forthcoming with what information is necessary to complete the permit applications and with alternatives for an applicant.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pietzman and written testimony was submitted by George Allen Morris Jr.; Joe Loyd; and Associated Industries Of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: Written testimony in opposition to the bill was submitted by the Missouri Coalition For The Environment.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the Department works hard to assist permit applicant. The Department is working to make its website more user-friendly in order to help permit applicants and the general public.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department Of Natural Resources.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full

written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.