HCS HB 2600 -- NATURAL RESOURCES (Railsback)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Rural Community Development

This bill modifies that provisions of law relating to natural resources.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE (Section 21.831, RSMo.)

The bill establishes the "Joint Committee on Solid Waste Management". The Joint Committee is composed of five members of the Senate, three appointed by the President Pro Tem and two appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate, and five members of the House of Representatives, three appointed by the Speaker and two appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the House. The Joint Committee may hold hearings and must prepare a report with its recommendations for any legislative action deemed necessary, for submission to the General Assembly no later than January 15th of each even-numbered year. The Joint Committee expires on December 31, 2028.

SCHOOL DRINKING WATER (Section 160.077)

This bill creates the "Get the Lead Out of School Drinking Water Act".

The bill defines a "disadvantaged school district" as any school district that serves students from a county with at least 25% of families below the federal poverty guidelines or with more than 70% of the families qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

The bill requires that, beginning in the 2023-24 school year, schools must provide drinking water with a lead concentration level below the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommended maximum level of one part per billion.

Before January 1, 2024, schools must complete several requirements as outlined in the bill including: conducting an inventory of all drinking and non drinking water sources in each school building and installing filters to reduce lead in drinking water.

School districts must prioritize early childhood, kindergarten, and elementary buildings and provide sufficiently filtered water for all students and staff that meets the filter specifications outlined in the bill. Districts must conduct testing of 25% of filtered water sources within 60 days of filter installation and annually thereafter. Results of testing must be posted on the school website. Districts must also submit test results to the Safe Drinking Water Commission.

The bill outlines procedures for districts if a sample draw shows a lead concentration of one part per billion or greater including: shutting off water sources, providing bottled water for staff and students, and developing remediation steps.

The bill authorizes districts to seek reimbursement from a variety of federal and state sources for costs associated with expenses they may incur to be in compliance with the requirements outlined in the bill.

The bill directs the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Safe Drinking Water Commission to publish a report biennially based on the findings of the water tests outlined to be made public on the Safe Drinking Water Commission and DESE websites. The bill additionally directs the Safe Drinking Water Commission, no later than July 1, 2023, to provide guidance regarding the maintenance of filters and filtration systems and the development of flushing plans and to develop an online training program for custodial staff relating to the maintenance of filters and filtration systems.

The bill provides the Safe Drinking Water Commission the authority to enter school buildings and ensure compliance. No school building constructed after January 4, 2014 shall be required to install, maintain, or replace filters, and any school district that undertakes remediation efforts may use a cost effective method.

SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCAL EFFORT (Section 163.024)

The bill prevents money received into the Iron County School Fund from the payment of any penalty under the specified administrative order issued by the Department of Natural Resources to be included in the Iron County School calculation for local effort.

FLOOD RESILIENCY (Section 256.800)

The bill establishes the "Flood Resiliency Act", which creates a flood resiliency program administered by the Department of Natural Resources to increase flood resiliency along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries and to improve statewide flood forecasting and monitoring ability. The state may participate in flood resiliency projects as set forth in the bill. A plan, which is defined as a preliminary report describing the need for, and implementation of, flood resiliency measures, must include certain information. The Director of the Department of Natural Resources can only approve plans if it is determined that long-term flood mitigation is needed in that area of the state, and that such a plan proposes flood resiliency measures that will provide long-term flood resiliency.

Flood resiliency projects may be funded by moneys in the "Flood Resiliency Fund" created in the bill and such projects can be eligible to receive other contributions and grants.

RECYCLED ASPHALT SHINGLES (Sections 260.221 and 644.060)

This bill specifies that processed recycled asphalt shingles may be used for fill, reclamation, and other beneficial purposes without any permits relating to solid waste management or any permits relating to the Missouri Clean Water Law if such shingles are inspected for toxic and hazardous substances and, provided they may not be used for fill, reclamation, or other beneficial purposes within 100 feet of any lake, river, sink hole, perennial stream, or ephemeral stream.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (Section 260.243)

Currently, facilities designed to incinerate solid waste must provide a health and safety buffer of at least 50 feet from a facility located in a nonresidential area in St. Louis City and at least 300 feet from a facility anywhere else in the state.

This bill requires a new transfer station in a county with a charter form of government to provide a buffer zone determined by the Department of Natural Resources that extends at least 1000 feet from the facility located in a residential area. The Department must consider certain types of buildings when establishing the buffer zone.