

HCS HB 1378 -- DRINKING WATER

SPONSOR: Schwadron

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1378.

This bill specifies that the maximum contaminant level of vinyl chloride in drinking water can not exceed one part per billion.

This bill is similar to SB 694 (2023).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that protecting residents' health is a moral obligation for municipal water supplies. Currently the City of St. Charles water supply has been contaminated with vinyl chloride. It is important to reduce exposure to the chemical and the city has shut down six of its seven drinking water wells. This bill would ensure the safety of those drinking public drinking water.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Schwadron; Sierra Club Missouri Chapter; John Phillips, City Of St. Charles; Paul Michalski, 212 Environmental Consulting, LLC; and Kara Elms.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the Environmental Protection Agency sets maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) according to science. The current MCL is sufficient to protect public health.

Testifying in person against the bill was the Associated Industries Of Missouri.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.