

HB 1604 -- COTTON CROP LIENS

SPONSOR: Bean

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 23 to 0.

Currently, pursuant to the provisions of the Missouri Boll Weevil Suppression Eradication Act, a cotton grower who fails to pay assessments is subject to a per-acre penalty. This bill provides that in addition to other remedies for the collection of delinquent assessments, including penalties and interest, the Department of Agriculture will have an assessment lien covering any current or future cotton crop grown by the producer and the proceeds of the cotton sale until the assessment, penalties, and interest are paid in full. The department will be subject to certain notification and procedural requirements.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill was requested by the Cotton Producers of Missouri to aid in the collection of assessments, penalties, and accumulated interest.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bean; Department of Agriculture; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it clarifies that the lien is exclusively upon a delinquent producer's present and future cotton crop and crop proceeds.

Others testifying on the bill were Independent Farm Credit Services; and Progressive Farm Services.

Roland Tackett, Legislative Analyst