

HB 1577 -- STATE MILK BOARD

SPONSOR: Pollock

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 9 to 0.

Currently, the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Department of Agriculture are responsible for ensuring that there is appropriate and effective enforcement of the state milk standards based on an annual official rating survey. This bill replaces the state agencies with the State Milk Board as the official rating agency and specifies that the surveys be conducted biannually. The board is required to adopt a method of making official rating surveys of all milksheds.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that 42 states currently require their state milk boards to be the official rating agency that enforces milk standards. The transfer of rating and inspection authority to the board will provide consistency and efficiency in milk inspections.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pollock; Missouri State Milk Board; Missouri Dairy Association; Dairy Farmers of America; Department of Agriculture; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Roland Tackett, Legislative Analyst