

HCS HB 2102 -- LICENSURE AND REGULATION OF ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Munzlinger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding the Animal Care Facilities Act. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Removes the exemption for animal shelters from the required annual licensure fee; and

(2) Prohibits the Department of Agriculture from retaining, contracting with, or otherwise utilizing the services of the personnel of any nonprofit organization for the purpose of inspecting or licensing a shelter, pound, kennel, breeder, pet shop, or any animal care facility subject to the provisions of the act.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$95,000 in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$95,000 in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the money generated by the bill will allow the Department of Agriculture to hire more inspectors to honor its statutory responsibility to inspect animal care facilities.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Munzlinger.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it strongly supports the prohibition of the Department of Agriculture to use the services of any nonprofit organization for the licensing and inspection of animal care facilities but does not support increasing the amount licensed breeders are required to pay for licensure.

Testifying on the bill was Missouri Federation of Animal Owners.