

HCS HBs 1235 & 1214 -- LIVESTOCK AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

SPONSOR: Hoskins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 13 to 2.

Currently, the total gross weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles hauling livestock on specified highways in the state cannot exceed 85,500 pounds with the exception of vehicles operated on the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways. This bill removes the specified highways and applies this weight limitation to any vehicle hauling livestock or agricultural products, not including local log trucks, on any highway of this state with the specified exception. Any vehicle hauling livestock or agricultural products weighing more than 80,000 pounds must apply to the Department of Transportation yearly for a permit and must receive a permit upon paying a \$25 fee. Upon renewal of the permit, the applicant must submit to the department a list of roads traveled and the number of miles traveled on each road during the year.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides equity throughout the state and helps Missouri be more competitive with other states that have increased weight limits for trucks. It is also cost-efficient for livestock producers by allowing them to increase the number of livestock that can be transported at one time.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hoskins and Representative Guernsey; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Missouri Agribusiness Association; Missouri Poultry Federation; and Missouri Federation of Animal Owners.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that increasing the weight limits on trucks traveling on state roads shows an exponential decline in the quality of the roads. The Department of Transportation does not have the funds to repair the damage caused by trucks carrying increased weights.

Testifying against the bill was the Department of Transportation.