

HCS HB 1391 -- RODEOS

SPONSOR: Hurst

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Emerging Issues in Agriculture by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill guarantees the right to conduct and participate in rodeos and specifies that a law, ordinance, or rule cannot be enacted to prohibit the conducting of or participating in rodeos in Missouri, except the protections under Chapter 267, RSMo, regarding diseased animals as determined by the State Veterinarian, or any reasonable restrictions regarding time, place, and manner consistent with other similar events. "Horse tripping" is defined in the bill and prohibited during a rodeo in this state. Promoters of rodeos must have the authority to establish fees and set rules for their specific events.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that rodeos are an important part of Missouri's economy and efforts to stop rodeos are becoming more aggressive. The bill protects a person's right to conduct or participate in a rodeo.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hurst; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill would allow rodeo promoters to include events that are cruel to the animals involved.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the rodeo industry provides more to the local economy than what is collected at the event. It provides revenues through expenditures on hotels and in restaurants and local stores. The industry also teaches youth the values of hard work, team work, and self esteem.

Testifying on the bill was Randy Russell.