

HCS HB 1952 -- COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

SPONSOR: Reiboldt

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 13 to 0.

Currently, a certified commercial pesticide applicator must furnish evidence of financial responsibility with the Director of the Department of Agriculture in order to receive a license. This bill removes the requirement of an applicator to furnish the evidence for license renewal, unless upon request. If the director so requests, the applicator must furnish the evidence within 10 days of receiving the request. The Director must be notified of cancellation or reduction of financial responsibility for any applicator or employer of the applicator. The applicator or applicator's employer also must maintain evidence of financial responsibility at their business location. If the financial responsibility furnished becomes unsatisfactory, new financial responsibility instruments must be immediately executed and maintained at the business location.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill helps both pesticide applicators and the Department of Agriculture. It would remove the requirement for applicators to submit proof of financial responsibility, but rather have a copy available on site for inspection as necessary. The department would also see a large decrease in paperwork to process since it would no longer have to process proof of financial responsibility for each applicator and license.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Reiboldt; Missouri Department of Agriculture; Missouri Agribusiness Association; and Property Casualty Insurers Association of America.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.