

HCS HB 375 -- AGRICULTURE

SPONSOR: McGaugh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 17 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 11 to 0.

Currently, the sponsoring individuals and organizations have limited liability for injuries or death from accidents associated with equine activities. This bill expands the limited liability to a livestock sponsor, a livestock owner, a livestock facility, and a livestock auction market for injuries or death from accidents associated with livestock activities.

Livestock activities include grazing, herding, feeding, branding, milking, or other activities that involve the care and maintenance of livestock; a livestock show, fair, competition, or auction; a livestock training or teaching activity; boarding livestock; and inspecting or evaluating livestock.

This bill includes trapping, paddle sports, aviation activities, and swimming to the activities included under the definition of "recreational use" as it applies to the provisions regarding landowners' liability for recreational use of land and specifies liability is not limited for a landowner who intentionally injures a participant, knowingly provides unsafe equipment or devices, or fails to use a degree of care that an ordinary person would use.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill is a proactive step to protect farmers and ranchers, as well as other rural landowners from legal action based on normal risks from livestock. It would protect farmers who use their farm as an education tool for the public.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGaugh; Dustin Schnake, Missouri Cattlemens Association; Missouri Federation Of Animal Owners; Missouri Pork Association; and Missouri Family Network.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.