

HB 313 -- ABANDONED AIRCRAFT

SPONSOR: Walker (3)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 10 to 0.

If a derelict aircraft or abandoned aircraft is discovered on airport property, the airport superintendent shall make a record of the date the aircraft was discovered on the airport and inquire as to the name and address of any person having an equitable or legal interest in the aircraft, including the owner and any lien holders, by either contacting the Federal Aviation Administration, aircraft registration branch, or contacting an aircraft title search company.

Within 10 business days of receiving the information requested the airport superintendent shall notify the owner and all other interested parties by certified mail. The airport superintendent may remove the aircraft in less than 30 calendar days if the aircraft poses a danger to the health or safety of users of the airport, as determined by the airport superintendent.

If the owner or other interested party has not removed the aircraft from the airport and paid in full all accrued fees and charges for the use of the airport and for the transportation, storage, and removal of the aircraft, or shown reasonable cause for the failure to do so within 30 calendar days, the airport superintendent may take action specified in the bill.

The bill also contains procedures for the sale or other disposition of the aircraft and for the perfection and release of liens by the airport superintendent.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will implement a procedure for disposal of abandoned aircraft. Currently, there is no process to remove such planes and they are causing considerable problems at many airports.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walker; Brian Weiler, Missouri Airport Managers Association; and William Balliew, Kirksville Regional Airport.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.