

SCS SB 88 -- ACTIONS AGAINST VETERINARIANS

SPONSOR: Brown (McGaugh)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 5 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules-Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 11 to 3.

This bill adds veterinarians and entities providing veterinary services to the list of health care providers to which the medical malpractice statute of limitations applies. The animal owner's knowledge is used when time periods are dependent on knowledge of the negligence.

This bill is similar to HB 159 (2017).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there currently is no statute of limitations that applies to veterinary malpractice, other than a catchall statute of limitations. The veterinary community believes there should be similar standards for veterinary malpractice lawsuits as there are for medical malpractice suits. Veterinarians have malpractice insurance and have legal concerns, even though most of them are not being sued.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McGaugh; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; and the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.