

HB 655 -- FERAL HOGS

SPONSOR: Dinkins

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass - Consent" by the Standing Committee on Consent and House Procedure by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill defines the term "landowner's agent" for the purposes of who may take, attempt to take, or kill a feral hog with the use of an artificial light.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the definition needs to be clarified. Many farmers and landowners work all day and cannot be up all night searching for feral hogs. Many times landowners bring others in to combat the damage the hogs cause and they need all the tools possible to eradicate the hogs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dinkins; Allen Morris; Missi Ferguson, Missouri Hunting & Working Dog Alliance; Rick Thompson; Josh Romines; Ted Tinker; Kenny Piatt; and Brad A. Parker, Parker Farms.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that having no definition of landowner agent in statute has placed the department's agents in a tough position. By defining the term, agents will have a clear definition of who may use artificial light.

Testifying on the bill were Robert Elder and the Missouri Department Of Conservation.