

HB 1010 -- AGRICULTURE EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Ross

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill authorizes the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to develop a pilot program, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, to provide for agricultural education in elementary schools in the state. The purpose of the program is to determine whether and how to implement an elementary agricultural education program statewide.

The bill states that DESE shall select a minimum of one public elementary school from each of the 16 geographic areas across the state. The local school board for each elementary school selected to be in the pilot program shall agree to implement and fully fund an elementary agricultural education program for a period of at least three years.

The curriculum for this program will be established through a collaboration of DESE and local school districts, and such curriculum must meet the criteria set forth in the bill.

A program evaluation regarding the success and impact of the pilot program shall be provided by DESE, and shall report the results of such evaluation to the relevant House and Senate committees on agriculture and education.

This bill is similar to SB 218 (2019).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that society has moved away from agriculture and there is a need for agricultural education; this bill would help students have a more hands on approach to how our food gets to the plate and is similar to programs offered by private groups.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ross; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Hope Sickmeier, Southern Boone County Schools; John Bryan, Missouri Poultry Federation; and Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.