

HCS HB 1335 -- SALE OF RAW MILK

SPONSOR: Kelley (127)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 27 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1335.

This bill allows for the sale of grade A retail raw milk or cream produced in Missouri at grocery stores, restaurants, soda fountains, or similar establishments as long as the milk is clearly labeled with the specified warning label and when the milk or cream is sold in a manner that does not allow the final consumer to see the label, it must be clearly presented to the consumer through a written notice.

The bill also specifies that no bottler or distributor of grade A retail raw milk can sell, transport or deliver the milk unless it has been inspected by the State Milk Board at least quarterly. Also, any dairy farm producing grade A retail raw milk must have its herd accredited or certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as tuberculosis-free and brucellosis-free.

This bill is the same as HB 1090 (2019).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there is a market for retail raw milk in the state and that if produced and bottled correctly, it is a healthy alternative to pasteurized milk. Many states already allow the sale of raw milk at retail stores. This bill would allow the sale if it meet certain consumer protection standards.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Kelley; Nathaniel L. Hudson; Leesa I. Robinson, Marlee's Creamery; and Mark Robinson, Marlee's Creamery.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that pasteurized milk is much safer to drink than raw milk and that this bill would put consumers at risk for increased food borne illnesses.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Dairy Products Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say grade A milk is regulated by the State Milk Board and discussed the testing and inspection process. Those testifying also presented historical information on food borne illnesses in the state that were traced back to milk products.

Testifying on the bill were Rachel Owen, MOST Policy Initiative (University Of Missouri); and Gene Wiseman, Missouri State Milk Board.