

HCS HB 1583 -- AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Haden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 19 to 5. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 5 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1583.

This bill specifies that the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, the county sheriff and any other federal or Missouri state agency with statutory or regulatory authority have exclusive authority to inspect the grounds or facilities in Missouri used for the production of eggs, milk or other dairy products, raising of livestock, or the production or raising of dogs or other animals not used to produce any food product. Unless requested by the owner of the facility, no other entity may inspect the grounds or facilities to enforce or carry out the laws or administrative rules of another state.

The provisions of this bill do not apply to inspections in a charter county or the City of St. Louis or on any manufacturing component of a production agriculture farm.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 951 (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 this bill would clarify which agencies have the authority to inspect certain agricultural facilities. The bill would protect Missouri farmers from other states and outside organizations attempting to gain access to the facilities without legal authority. However, it also allows for the farmer or producer to authorize other agencies to inspect, if the farmer or producer so chooses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haden; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Missouri Soybean Association; Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Cattleman's Association; and Missouri Pork Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that many counties in Missouri have county health ordinances and this bill would prohibit those counties from inspecting facilities regulated under the

ordinances.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Association of Local Public Health Agencies.