

HCS HB 1798 -- FERAL SWINE

SPONSOR: Love

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

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1798.

Currently, any person who knowingly or recklessly releases any swine to live in the wild or possesses or transports certain live wild boar without a permit from the Department of Agriculture is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This bill changes the penalties to a class E felony.

The bill also changes the term "feral hog" to "feral swine" and specifies that any person who kills a feral swine outside without the consent of the landowner or not in compliance with certain requirements is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

The bill also repeals the requirements for the Department of Agriculture to promulgate rules relating to fencing and health standards for certain wild boar and swine held on private property.

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 makes changes to penalize those who transport or release feral hogs. Feral hogs destroy property and crops and pose a disease threat to livestock. This bill would make changes to penalties to help with the efforts to eradicate feral hogs.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Love; Missouri Department of Conservation; Missouri Cattlemen's Association; Missouri Pork Producers; Missouri Farm Bureau; Conservation Federation of Missouri; and Missouri Department of Agriculture.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.