

HCS HCR 78 -- USDA INVESTIGATION

SPONSOR: Knight

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 24 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HCR 78.

This resolution urges the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Congress to work with stakeholders when drafting any reauthorizations of livestock mandatory price-reporting laws to add transparency in pricing. The resolution also requests the secretary release the details of the investigation into any market manipulation following the fire at the beef packing plant and deliver a copy to the Missouri Department of Agriculture and certain committees within the General Assembly.

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 in recent years, there has been a reduced amount of transparency in pricing in the beef market. Formula-based transactions have increased in much of the country and the details of the formula deals are largely unknown. This resolution asks for more transparency and for the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to make known his findings, so farmers know if there was manipulation after the Kansas fire.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Knight; Missouri Farm Bureau; and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.