

HCS HCR 102 -- BLACK VULTURE DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE

SPONSOR: Cupps

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 19 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HCR 102.

This resolution creates the "Black Vulture Depredation Task Force" to fully consider and study the damage that the black vultures have on livestock, the costs incurred on Missouri's farmers and all options for preventing such damages and mitigating the costs. The task force will consist of nine members, including one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem, one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker, and seven other members as specified in the resolution.

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 farmers in Missouri have been dealing with the damage caused by the black vulture for several years and it is progressively getting worse. Some southern states have worked with the federal government to obtain more flexibility in fighting the vultures. This task force would be able to investigate other options.

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

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill discussed tactics farmers and others can use to fight the vultures.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Conservation.