

HCS HBs 647 & 841 -- WORKING ANIMALS

SPONSOR: Pollitt (052)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Rural Community Development by a vote of 10 to 5. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 647.

This bill specifies that no law, ordinance, or rule may be enacted by any village, town, city or county to terminate, ban, or effectively ban, by creating an undue financial hardship, the job of working animals or an animal enterprise. These provisions do not alter state or federal laws that regulate animal care, public health, and safety. The provisions of this bill do not prevent the establishment of or alter any village, town, city or county or law, ordinance, or rule regarding animal care, public health, traffic regulations, or public safety unless it is in violation of the provisions of the bill.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1752 (2020).

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that working animals are inspected and regulated to ensure proper care for the health and welfare of both the animal and the people the animal serves. It is improper for a political subdivision to regulate an industry out of business, which is what is happening. This bill would allow reasonable regulations without terminating legitimate businesses.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Pollitt; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Missouri Farm Bureau; David Gibson, A Zoo For You; Greg Woody, Woody's Menagerie; Haylee Hale, 5-H Ranch; Missouri Pet Breeders Association; and Vicki Lantz, Lazy L Safari Park, LLC.

Additional written testimony was submitted in support of the bill.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill is too broad and would take away a political subdivision's ability to regulate cruel animal exhibits and other animal and public safety issues.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Alliance For Animal Legislation.

Additional written testimony was submitted in opposition of the bill.

OTHERS: Additional written testimony was submitted for informational purposes.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.