

HCS HB 944 -- DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM

SPONSOR: Reedy

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Rural Community Development by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 944.

Currently, a person commits the crime of unlawful use of a weapon if he or she discharges or shoots a firearm from a motor vehicle. This bill allows the discharge of a firearm from a stationary motor vehicle if the firearm is discharged on private property in an unincorporated area of the state to protect livestock from predatory wildlife or dogs that are killing, wounding, or chasing livestock.

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 and ranchers need to have the ability to protect their livestock from predatory animals without the fear of being charged with a felony offense

Testifying for the bill were Representative Reedy and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the Department has concerns that this bill may conflict with the state Wildlife Code.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Conservation.

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.