HS HCS SS SB 138 -- AGRICULTURE

STATE COORDINATE SYSTEM (Sections 60.401, 60.411, 60.431, 60.441, 60.471, 60.480, 60.496, and 60.510)

This bill repeals provisions relating to the "Missouri Coordinate System of 1927" and the "Missouri Coordinate System of 1983" and establishes the "Missouri State Plane Coordinate System". The system may have one or more projection zone layers. Each layer shall:

(1) Be covered by geodetically referenced mapping projections adopted and supported by the Nation Geodetic Survey;

(2) Be identified by the geodetic datum; and

(3) Remain uniquely and consistently defined throughout its implementation within a particular layer.

This bill modifies provisions relating to coordinate distances and measurement values as specified in the bill. This bill shall not be construed to prohibit the appropriate use of other geodetic reference networks.

WATERWAYS AND PORTS TRUST FUND (Section 68.080)

This bill creates the "Waterways and Ports Trust Fund". The Fund consists of moneys appropriated to it by the General Assembly, and may also receive money from federal, private, or other sources.

Moneys in the Fund can be withdrawn only upon appropriation by the General Assembly, to be administered by the Highways and Transportation Commission and the Department of Transportation, for the purposes of developing a statewide plan for waterborne commerce and reviewing plans of local or regional port authorities for major public capital improvements to encourage coordination with the statewide plan.

To be eligible a project must be:

(1) A capital improvement project implementing physical improvements designed to improve commerce or terminal and transportation facilities on or adjacent to the navigable rivers of this state;

(2) Located on land owned by a Missouri port authority, or within a navigable river adjacent to such land, and within the boundaries of a port authority; (3) Funded by alternate sources so that moneys from the Fund comprise no more than 80% of the cost of the project;

(4) Selected and approved by the Highways and Transportation Commission to support a statewide plan for waterborne commerce, in accordance with subdivision (1) of Section 68.065; and

(5) Capable of completion within two years of approval by the Highways and Transportation Commission.

The provisions of this section will terminate on August 28, 2033, pending the discharge of moneys from the Fund. The Fund shall be dissolved on December 31, 2033, with the unencumbered balance being transferred to the General Revenue Fund.

FUEL TAX CREDITS (Sections 135.772, 135.775, and 135.778)

Current law authorizing a tax credit for the production of biodiesel fuel limits the maximum amount of tax credits that may be issued in a fiscal year to \$4 million. The bill increases such annual limit to \$5.5 million and removes the requirement for the Department of Revenue to apportion tax credits among biodiesel producers applying for such tax credits.

AGRICULTURE-RELATED TAX DEDUCTIONS (Sections 143.022 and 143.121)

The bill adds to the definition of "business income," for the purposes of deducting a percentage from a taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income the total combined profit reported to the IRS on each Schedule F and each Form 4835 filed.

In addition, the bill authorizes an income tax exemption for:

(1) A percentage of capital gains of up to \$6 million per year, as specified in the bill, received by a taxpayer who sells all or a portion of his or her farmland to a beginning farmer;

(2) Cash rent income of up to \$25,000 per year received by a taxpayer who leases all or a portion of his or her farmland to a beginning farmer; and

(3) Income of up to \$25,000 per year received from crop share arrangements with a beginning farmer on all or a portion of a taxpayers farmland.

The bill also requires the Department of Revenue to report annually to certain committees of the House of Representative and the Senate regarding the cost and benefits of the subtraction of capital gains for transactions with beginning farmers.

DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING MODIFICATION OF FEE STRUCTURES (Section 196.311, 196.316, 281.102, 323.100, 413.225)

This bill modifies the provisions relating to the Department of Agriculture's Division of Weights and Measures. In its provisions, the bill:

(1) Adds quail eggs to the list of eggs for which the Division regulates the sale;

(2) Repeals the specific fees associated with the sale of eggs and allows the Department to assess egg licensing fees to assist in defraying operating expenses. The fees may not exceed \$100 annually for a retailer's license, \$175 annually for a dealer's license, and \$250 annually for a processor's license;

(3) Delays the effective date of changes to the Department's pesticides certification and training program from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025;

(4) Increases the cap from \$75 to \$400 per test for annual testing of all liquid meters used in retail sale of liquefied petroleum gas and allows the Department to set a fee based on the operating costs the previous year;

(5) Increases the cap from \$125 to \$500 for the fee for the cost of operating the metrology laboratory and allows the Department to set a fee based on the operating costs the previous year; and

(6) Reduces from 90 days to 30 days the deadline to pay the original invoice for device inspection by the Division before a device may be taken out of service due to nonpayment

FLOOD RESILIENCY ACT (Section 256.800)

The bill establishes the "Flood Resiliency Act", which creates the "Flood Resiliency Program" administered by the Department of Natural Resources to increase flood resiliency along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries and to improve statewide flood forecasting and monitoring ability. The state may participate in flood resiliency projects as set forth in the bill. A plan, which is defined as a preliminary report describing the need for, and implementation of, flood resiliency measures, must include certain information. The Director of the Department of Natural Resources can only approve a plan if it is determined that long-term flood mitigation is needed in that area of the state, and that such a plan proposes flood resiliency measures that will provide long-term flood resiliency.

Flood resiliency projects may be funded by moneys in the "Flood Resiliency Fund" created in the bill and such projects can be eligible to receive other contributions and grants.

MISSOURI HARDWOOD FOREST PRODUCT PROMOTION (Section 262.911)

The bill requires the Department of Economic Development to promote Missouri hardwood forest products and educate the public on the value and benefit of such products.

The bill creates the "Missouri Hardwood Forest Product Promotion Fund". Money in the Fund shall be used to promote and educate about Missouri hardwood forest products.

This program will sunset six years after the effective date.

LOG TRUCKS (Section 304.180)

Currently, local log trucks and local trucks and local log tractors may operate on certain roads with a total weight of up to 105,000 pounds. The bill would increase the total allowable weight to 109,600 pounds.

VETERINARY STUDENT LOAN & LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS (Sections 340.341, 340.345, 340.381, 340.384, 340.387)

The bill modifies provisions relating to the Large Animal Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program.

As specified in the bill, the Missouri Department of Agriculture can not grant repayment for more than 12 veterinarians each year, instead of six. The Department may increase the number of qualified applicants above 12 that may be awarded such loans per academic year if the amount of any additional moneys received from private contributions or other assets deposited in the Veterinary Student Loan Payment Fund allows the full funding of such increase in the number of applicants.

The bill renames the "Dr. Merrill Townley Large Animal Veterinary Student Loan Program" to the "Dr. Merrill Townley and Dr. Dan Brown Large Animal Veterinary Student Loan Program".

The bill expands the sources of funding for the Program to include any private grant, gift, donation, device, or bequest of moneys, funds, real or personal property, or other assets. As specified in the bill, a qualified applicant may receive financial assistance under the Program up to \$30,000 for each academic year, instead of \$20,000, provided that the cumulative total shall not exceed \$120,000 per qualified applicant, instead of \$80,000.

Finally, for each year of qualified employment that each individual contracts to serve in an area of defined need, the Department will forgive up to \$30,000 with accrued interest, an increase from \$20,000, as previously allowed.