

HCS HB 533 -- FIRE SUPPRESSION SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

SPONSOR: Diehl

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 23 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 533.

The bill prohibits a county or fire protection district from enacting or exercising ordinances that impose regulations on, or require permits with respect to the installation or erection of fire suppression sprinkler systems in animal or livestock agricultural buildings or structures.

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 National Fire Protection Association adopted guidelines that would require sprinkler systems in all agriculture buildings. If fire protection districts across the state adopt differing requirements, this could be costly and confusing for farmers and ranchers in the State. This bill would provide certainty of requirements.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Diehl; Arnie C. Dienoff; Missouri Soybean Association; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Missouri Pork Association; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPONENTS: No opposition was voiced in committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the language of the bill was too broad and does not contemplate new technology, including firefighting robots that are currently available.

Testifying in person on the bill was Animal Legal Defense Legislative Fund.

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