

HCS HB 565 -- LIABILITY FOR EQUINE OR LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES

SPONSOR: Boggs

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 12 to 7. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 565.

Currently, an equine activity sponsor, equine professional, livestock activity sponsor, livestock facility, livestock market, or any of their employees are not liable for an injury or death of a participant resulting for the inherent risks of the activity, except under certain circumstances. This bill repeals the current exemption from limited liability for failure to use the degree of care an ordinary, careful, and prudent person would use in the similar circumstances.

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 this bill would clarify the statute and limit the exposure to lawsuits to equine activity sponsors.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Boggs; Missouri Cattlemen'S Association; Arnie C. Dienoff; Missouri Farm Bureau; and Tracey Ryan.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the provisions of the bill have been in statute since 1994 and are a standard part of legal liability statutory language.

Testifying in person against the bill was Missouri Association Of Trial Attorneys.

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.