

HCS HBs 1555 & 1026 -- AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Martin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Rural Issues by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 8 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 1555 & 1026.

This bill ends the current pilot program for agriculture education in elementary schools in the 2025-26 school year and authorizes that beginning in the 2026-27 school year the program may be implemented by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education statewide for all elementary schools.

This bill is the similar to HB 1863 (2024).

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 agriculture is a driver of the State's economy. Investing in agricultural literacy opens new interests and career paths for students and increases informed decision making as adults.

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

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill explained how the pilot program worked for the Department and how the Department would implement the expanded program.

Testifying in person on the bill was Perry Gorrell, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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.