

HCS SS SCS SB 105 -- AGRICULTURE

SPONSOR: Bernskoetter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 9 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for SB 105.

This bill modifies the provisions of law relating to agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (Section 178.530)

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 provision is the same as HCS HB 1555 & 1026 (2025).

NONNATIVE INVASIVE PLANTS SPECIES (Section 263.070)

This bill requires that all nurseries and nursery dealers in the State submit to the Department of Agriculture an affidavit that they will not knowingly or intentionally import, export, buy, sell, transport, distribute, or propagate any plant or seeds of Coloratus variety of climbing euonymus, any variety of Japanese Honeysuckle, any variety of Sericea Lespedeza, or perilla mint beginning January 1, 2027, or the Compactus variety of Burning Bush or any variety of Callery Pear beginning January 1, 2029.

This provisions is the same as HCS HB 60 (2025).

FENCES AND ENCLOSURES (Sections 272.138 and 272.380)

This bill specifies that if the owner of a property or a contractor hired by the owner constructs, maintains, or repairs a division fence used to enclose a field or enclosure where animals are kept, the owner or contractor may enter onto the adjoining property up to 10 feet to repair, maintain or construct the fence. The owner or contractor is not liable for damages for clearing any trees, brush, or vegetation within the 10 foot boundary or division fence. However the owner or contractor would be liable for damages caused by entry onto the adjoining property, including damages to crops.

These provisions do not include adjoining property owned by any utility company, railroad, or certain zoological parks, wildlife conservation facilities, or animal sanctuaries. The provisions do not allow an owner or contractor to enter into a building on the adjoining property.

This provision is the same as HCS HB 1116 (2025).

COTTON TRAILERS (Section 301.010 and 307.010)

Currently, the maximum speed at which cotton trailers may travel is 40 miles per hour. This bill increases the maximum speed to 70 miles per hour and removes the requirement that the trailer is to be used exclusively for transporting cotton. The bill also specifies that cotton trailers are not in violation of the provisions relating to securing of loads if certain conditions are met and no portion of the load becomes dislodged and falls from the trailer.

This provision is similar to HCS HB 169 and SB 28.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the Senate Perfected of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that nonnative invasive plants threaten the State's forestry, cattle industries, and wildlife habitat. This bill would protect Missouri's landscape by stopping the sale and distribution of certain plants within the State. There are more than 100 nonnative invasive plants in the State, but this bill is limited to five prolific plants that are sold at retail in the State.

Testifying in person for the bill were Senator Bernskoetter; Tyler Wilson; Conservation Federation of Missouri; The Nature Conservancy; Zach Morris; Missouri Cattleman's Association; Missouri Forest Products Association; and Virginia (Ginny) Wallace.

OPPOSERS: There is was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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.