

HCS HBs 2097 & 1905 -- AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Martin

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Rural Issues by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 2097 & 1905.

This bill ends the current pilot program for agriculture education in elementary schools and authorizes that beginning in the 2027-28 school year the program can be implemented by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education statewide for all elementary schools that elect to participate. The bill removes the requirement for reporting to the House and Senate committees on agriculture and education and requires the report to be posted on the Department's website.

This bill is the similar to HB 1026 and HB 1555 (2025).

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

PROPOSERS: 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; Gannon Seyer; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri Soybean Association; Billy Polansky, Columbia Center For Urban Agriculture; Missouri Farm Bureau; and Heather Fletcher, Missouri Farmers Care.

OPPOSERS: 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 throughout the state since every district's program would be unique to the district.

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.