

HCS HB 202 -- MISSOURI CALCIUM INITIATIVE

CO-SPONSORS: Holand (Portwood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 12 to 0.

This substitute creates a Missouri Calcium Initiative. The substitute requires that a purchasing agent for any state governmental entity or school district that purchases food or beverages which are served in a building or room operated or owned by the entity give preference to high calcium food and beverages that are equal to or lower in price than products of the same type and nutritional quality. If a state institution determines that the food and beverages will interfere with the proper treatment and care of a patient, it need not make the purchases for that patient.

The provisions of the initiative are in addition to any requirements placed upon a governmental entity by the U. S. Department of Agriculture under the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program.

The substitute does not require voiding the terms of any contract entered before July 1, 2003.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that calcium deficiency has become an epidemic in the United States. Most school-aged children consume half of the recommended daily allowance of calcium. Decreased consumption of calcium has been associated with various diseases, including eclampsia, hypertension, Type-II diabetes, obesity, and colon cancer. The bill would promote increased consumption of calcium and decrease diseases and injuries related to calcium deficiency.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; Missouri State Medical Association; and Missouri State Chiropractors Association. Written testimony was submitted by Missouri Dairy Association; and United Steelworkers of America.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst