

HCS HB 1739 -- AGRICULTURAL LOANS

SPONSOR: Myers (Dusenberg)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 18 to 0.

This substitute defines "vermiculture operation" as a Missouri business entity engaged in raising earthworms under a controlled environment and makes them eligible for certain agricultural loan programs including Agricultural Linked Deposit loans and single-purpose animal facility loan guarantees.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will aid in the expansion of vermiculture in Missouri's rapidly expanding organic agricultural industry. Worm castings are an effective alternative to chemical fertilizers and insecticides.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dusenberg; and Doug and Becky Halpin, Windswept Worm Farm.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Roland Tackett, Legislative Analyst