

HCS HB 478 -- NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

SPONSOR: Quinn, 7 (Dethrow)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 10 to 0.

This substitute prohibits the Department of Agriculture from participating in any intrusive animal identification program that may be required under the National Animal Identification System administered by the United States Department of Agriculture without specific authorization from the General Assembly.

The department is allowed to participate in any voluntary or private animal identification program.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that mandatory premises and animal identification requirements add costs that have a disproportionately adverse effect on small animal operations. A mandatory program will force many Missouri producers out of production and is an intrusion on their privacy rights.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dethrow; Ron Calxone, Missouri First; Ray Cunio, Citizens for Private Property Rights; Doreen Hannes; Ronny Margason; Bob Parker, Texas County Farm Bureau Board; and Russell Wood, Ozark Property Rights Congress.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that premises registration is necessary to control diseases in animals. Animal identification aids producers in receiving additional profits from specialty and foreign markets. Many foreign and domestic markets include animal identification requirements for the transport and sale of animals. Missouri Farm Bureau supports voluntary identification in its member-derived statement policy.

Testifying on the bill were Department of Agriculture; and Missouri Farm Bureau.