

HB 633 -- Agritourism Promotion Act

Sponsor: Ruzicka

This bill establishes the Agritourism Promotion Act which allows for the registration of any person who is engaged in a business which provides agritourism activities in Missouri. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Defines "agritourism activity" as any activity which allows the general public for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes to view or enjoy rural activities including, but not limited to, farming and ranching activities or historic, cultural, or natural attractions;

(2) Defines "inherent risks of a registered agritourism activity" as dangers or conditions which are an integral part of an agritourism activity including the potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that may contribute to injury to the participant or others;

(3) Allows any person who is engaged in a business providing an agritourism activity to register with the Director of the Department of Agriculture. The registration must contain a description of the agritourism activity he or she conducts or intends to conduct and the location where the activity will be conducted;

(4) Specifies that the registration is for a period of two years and a fee of up to \$200 may be imposed on an applicant to cover the actual administrative costs associated with registration and the placement and maintenance of directional signage;

(5) Requires the department to maintain and make available to the public a list of all registered agritourism operators, the registered agritourism activities conducted by each operator, and the registered agritourism location;

(6) Requires the department to promote and publicize registered agritourism operators, activities, and locations by promoting and encouraging tourism;

(7) Requires every registered agritourism operator to post and maintain signage at the agritourism location which contains a specified warning notice that there is no liability for certain injuries or the death of a participant in a registered agritourism activity;

(8) Specifies that any participant is assuming certain inherent risks when participating in an agritourism activity;

(9) Specifies that a registered agritourism operator is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant resulting from the inherent risks of agritourism activities if the warning is posted as required unless the injury to the participant was by willful or wanton conduct or the operator failed to make a dangerous condition known to a participant and the condition resulted in an injury;

(10) Specifies that the operator has an affirmative defense to liability if the injured person deliberately disregarded conspicuously posted signs, verbal instructions, or other warnings regarding safety measures during the activity or if any equipment, animals, or appliances used by the injured person during the activity were used in a manner or for a purpose other than that for which a reasonable person should have known they were intended; and

(11) Creates the Agritourism Fee Fund consisting of registration fees and moneys appropriated to the fund to be used solely for the placement and maintenance of directional signage and the administration of the provisions of the bill.