

CCS#2 HCS SCS SB 9 -- AGRICULTURE

(Vetoed by the Governor--Overridden by the General Assembly)

This bill changes the laws regarding agriculture.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION STUDENT PROTECTION ACT (Section 178.550, RSMo)

The bill establishes the Career and Technical Education Student Protection Act and the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and repeals the provisions regarding the State Advisory Committee for Vocational Education. The advisory council will consist of 11 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members will serve a term of five years, except for the initial appointees who will serve specified staggered terms. Members will consist of the following individuals:

- (1) A director or administrator of a career and technical education center;
- (2) An individual from the business community with a background in commerce;
- (3) A representative from Linn State Technical College;
- (4) Three current or retired career and technical education teachers who serve or have served as an advisor to a career and technical education student organization specified in the bill;
- (5) A representative from a business organization, association of businesses, or a business coalition;
- (6) A representative from a community college;
- (7) A representative from Southeast Missouri State University or the University of Central Missouri;
- (8) An individual participating in an apprenticeship recognized by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations or approved by the United States Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship; and
- (9) A school administrator or superintendent of a school offering career and technical education.

A director of guidance and counseling services at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Director of the Division of Workforce Development, and a member of the Coordinating Board for

Higher Education will serve as ex-officio members of the advisory council, and the Assistant Commissioner for the Office of College and Career Readiness of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will provide staff support. The advisory council must meet at least four times annually. Any business coming before the advisory council, including all decisions, votes, exhibits, outcomes, and materials, must be made available on the council's Internet website.

The advisory council must make an annual written report regarding the state budget for career and technical education and must annually submit written recommendations regarding the oversight and procedures for the handling of funds for student career and technical education organizations to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The advisory council must develop a statewide short-range and long-range plan for career and technical education; identify service gaps; confer with public and private entities to promote and improve career and technical education; identify legislative recommendations to improve career and technical education; and promote coordination of existing career and technical education programs.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION DISTRICTS (Section 262.598)

A University of Missouri extension council, except a council that is located in St. Louis County, is authorized to form an extension district made up of cooperating counties for the purpose of funding extension programming. An extension district can be a single-council district or a consolidated district consisting of two or more extension councils. A majority vote of each participating council is required to form an extension district.

In a single-council district, the existing University of Missouri extension council will serve as the extension district's governing body. In a consolidated district, the governing board will consist of at least three but no more than five representatives appointed by each participating council. The powers and duties of a district's governing body are specified in the bill.

The governing body of a district may submit a question to the voters of the district to institute a property tax levy in the district's counties. A property tax levy cannot exceed 30 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The costs of submitting the question to the voters at the general municipal election must be paid by the district. In a single-county district, the property tax levy will be imposed if a majority of the voters in the county

approve it. In a consolidated district, the property tax levy will be imposed if a majority of the voters in each county in the district approve it. If one of the counties in a consolidated district does not approve it, that county's council may withdraw from the district. Upon the withdrawal, the district will be made up of the remaining counties and the tax will be imposed in those counties. However, if the county that did not approve the tax levy does not withdraw, the tax cannot be imposed.

A single-council district for which a tax has not been levied may be dissolved in the same manner in which it was formed. A county may withdraw from a consolidated district at any time by filing a petition signed by at least 10% of the voters in the county who voted in the most recent presidential election with the circuit court having jurisdiction over the district. The court must hear evidence on the petition, and if it determines that it is in the best interest of the county inhabitants, it must submit the question to the voters at the next general municipal election. If two-thirds of the voters vote in favor of withdrawing from the district, the court must issue an order withdrawing the county from the district. The costs of the election are to be paid by the district. The withdrawal will not become effective until the following January 1, and the district will remain intact for the purposes of paying all outstanding and lawful obligations and disposing of the district's property.

The governing body of any district may seek voter approval to increase its current tax rate if the increase will not cause the total tax to exceed 30 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The governing body must submit the question to the voters at the next general municipal election. The costs of submitting the question to the voters must be paid by the district. If a majority of the voters in the county in a single-council district approve the question, the tax will be imposed. In a consolidated district, a majority of the voters in the district is required.

MISSOURI LIVESTOCK DISEASE CONTROL AND ERADICATION LAW (Section 267.655)

If the Director of the Department of Agriculture determines, after inquiry and an opportunity for a hearing, that a person violated any provision of the Missouri Livestock Disease Control and Eradication Law or any regulations related to the law, the department director has the authority to assess a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per incident. If the person fails to pay the penalty or restitution, the department director may apply to the Cole County Circuit Court for an order enforcing the assessed penalty or restitution.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF AGRICULTURAL LAND (Sections 442.571 and 442.576)

Currently, an alien or foreign business may not purchase agricultural land in Missouri. The bill prohibits the purchase if the total aggregate alien and foreign ownership of agricultural acreage in the state exceeds 1% of the total aggregate agricultural acreage in this state. The Director of the Department of Agriculture must approve any sale, transfer, or acquisition of any agricultural land, and the department must establish the requirements for the submission and approval of requests to purchase, transfer, or acquire agricultural land under these provisions.

STEALING OF LIVESTOCK (Section 570.030)

The bill specifies that stealing any animal considered to be livestock is a class B felony if the value of the livestock exceeds \$10,000.

CRIMES AGAINST ANIMALS (Sections 578.009 - 578.012)

Currently, a person is guilty of animal neglect when he has custody, ownership, or both of an animal and fails to provide adequate care or adequate control that results in substantial harm to the animal. The bill specifies that a person will be guilty of animal neglect if he has custody, ownership, or both and fails to provide adequate care.

The bill specifies that a person is guilty of animal trespass if a person having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate control for a period equal to or exceeding 12 hours. The first conviction for animal trespass is an infraction and punishable by a fine of up to \$200. A second or subsequent conviction is a class C misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, a fine of up to \$500, or both. The court may waive all fines for the first conviction if the person found guilty of animal trespass shows that adequate, permanent remedies for trespass have been made. Reasonable costs incurred for the care and maintenance of trespassing animals may not be waived.

Currently, a person is guilty of animal abuse when the person having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate care or adequate control. The bill specifies that a person is guilty of animal abuse if a person having ownership or custody of an animal knowingly fails to provide adequate care that results in substantial harm to the animal.