

SB 16 -- CHILDREN WORKING ON FAMILY FARMS

SPONSOR: Munzlinger (Dugger)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill specifies that a child may perform agriculture work on a farm owned and operated by the child's parent, sibling, grandparent, or sibling of a parent or, if performed by the child with the knowledge and consent of the child's parent, on any family farm or family farm corporation, including operating power driven machinery or motor vehicles; oiling, cleaning, maintaining, or washing machinery; using ladders, scaffolding, or other substitutes; and performing occupations involving exposure to any toxic or hazardous chemicals. A child may not be allowed to engage in other activities prohibited in Section 294.040, RSMo.

A child working on a family farm may do so without obtaining a work certificate and is not subject to specified limitations on the hours that he or she may work.

PROponents: Supporters say that the bill clarifies the child labor laws relating to children working on family farms. Learning the trade of agriculture takes a lifetime of hands-on learning. It is important for children to begin to learn about agriculture at a young age and the clarifications to the child labor laws will ensure that children can still begin to learn about the trade at a young age.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Munzlinger; Missouri Farm Bureau; Paul Gibbs, Missouri Cattlemens Association; Missouri Pork Association; Missouri Dairy Association; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Missouri Family Network, and Department of Agriculture.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.