

HB 100 -- COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

SPONSOR: Gosen

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Property, Casualty, and Life Insurance by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Insurance by a vote of 10 to 0.

Currently, a certified commercial pesticide applicator must furnish evidence of financial responsibility with the Director of the Department of Agriculture in order to receive a license. Following the receipt of the initial license, this bill removes the requirement of an applicator to furnish the evidence for license renewal unless upon request. If the director so requests, the applicator must furnish the evidence within 10 working days of receiving the request.

The bill increases the required amount of the surety bond or liability insurance from at least \$25,000 to at least \$50,000 for each occurrence. The department director must be notified of any cancellation or reduction of financial responsibility for any certified commercial applicator or employer of the applicator. The applicator or applicator's employer also must maintain evidence of financial responsibility at its business location. If the financial responsibility furnished becomes unsatisfactory, new financial responsibility instruments must be immediately executed and maintained at the business location.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill helps both pesticide applicators and the Department of Agriculture. It removes the requirement for applicators to submit proof of financial responsibility, but rather have a copy available on site for inspection as necessary. The department will see a large decrease in paperwork to process since it will no longer have to process proof of financial responsibility for each applicator and license.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Gosen; Richard S. Brownlee III; Harry Gallagher; Missouri Insurance Coalition; and John Brunnert, Department of Agriculture.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.