

HCS HB 1184 -- FARM TO TABLE

SPONSOR: Hummel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill changes and expands the Farm-to-School Program to the Farm-to-Table Program to include schools, correctional facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, and military bases. The bill requires the Department of Agriculture to establish program goals, including that participating institutions must purchase at least 5% of their food locally by December 31, 2018.

The bill also changes and expands the Farm-to-School Taskforce to the Farm-To-Table Taskforce to include a representative from the departments of Corrections and Health and Senior Services and a representative from one of the state's military bases. The Director of the Department of Corrections will appoint one person who is employed as a correctional facility food service director and the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services will appoint one person who is employed as a hospital or nursing home food services director.

The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2016.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the current Farm-to-School Program has been successful and should be expanded to include other types of institutions. The bill allows hospitals, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and military bases to also participate in the program.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hummel; Ronald Selfors, Sustainable Ozarks Partnership; John Tandy Crabtree, Crabtree Farms, Inc.; KC Healthy Kids; and Missouri Soybean Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill discussed the status of the website the department has developed to connect local farmers with schools and how the department would expand the site to include other institutions.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Agriculture.