

HCB 16 -- AGRICULTURE

SPONSOR: Houghton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "To Introduce" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 10 to 2. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 10 to 3.

This bill changes the laws relating to agriculture.

ZONING CLASSIFICATIONS FOR SAW MILLS

The bill requires that, for purposes of property zoning classifications, sawmills must be classified as agricultural property (Sections 64.002, 65.702, and 89.020 RSMo).

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES

The bill prohibits the State Tax Commission from promulgating a rule that increases agricultural land productive values more than 2% over the current values in effect prior to the rule promulgation or 8% above the lowest value in effect in any of the 10 years prior to the rule promulgation. The commission is also prohibited from increasing the values for land in any county that has been declared by the United States Department of Agriculture to be affected by a natural disaster in the preceding two years (Section 137.021).

TAX ALLOWANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Currently, a purchaser of a motor vehicle or trailer for agricultural use may use grain or livestock as an allowance to offset the sales and use tax liability from the purchase. The bill also allows fruits, vegetables and cotton produced or raised by the purchaser to be used to offset the tax liability (Section 144.025).

CAPTIVE CERVID SLAUGHTER

For purposes of the Meat Inspection Program administered by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the bill changes the definitions of "meat" and "meat product" to include captive cervids and the definition of "commercial plant" to include an establishment in which captive cervids are slaughtered, and the definition of "unwholesome" to include captive cervids, which have died other than by slaughter (Section 265.300).

MISREPRESENTATION OF MEAT

Currently, no person advertising, offering for sale, or selling a

carcass may engage in any misleading or deceptive practice including misrepresenting the cut, grade, brand or trade name, or weight or measure of any product. The bill also prohibits misrepresenting a product as meat that is not derived from harvested production livestock or poultry (Sections 265.490 and 265.494).

ANIMAL CARE TRAINING

The bill requires individuals, or organizations on behalf of a group of individuals, seeking to train peace officers in responding to animal neglect and abuse incident reports to submit all training materials relating to animal care to the State Veterinarian and all training materials relating to offenses involving animals to the Department of Public Safety for review on an annual basis. The State Veterinarian and Department of Public Safety must review and either approve or disapprove the materials within 14 days. Upon approval, the State Veterinarian or the Department of Public Safety will issue a certification.

Engaging in the business of animal care training using training materials that have not been certified by either the State Veterinarian or the Department of Public Safety is an infraction for the first offense, and a class D misdemeanor for the second or any subsequent offense (Section 273.450).

This section has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2019

FUEL STANDARDS

Currently, all fuels shall meet American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards, in addition to rules promulgated by the Director of the Department of Agriculture. The bill allows the director to waive specific requirements, or establish temporary alternative requirements in the event of an extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstance. The waiver must be as limited in scope and applicability as necessary, and applied equally and uniformly to all persons and companies in the impacted fuel supply and distribution system (Section 414.032).

AGRICULTURAL STORMWATER DISCHARGES

The bill specifies that agricultural stormwater discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture are exempt from permitting requirements under the Missouri Clean Water Law and should not be considered unlawful unless the discharges have entered the waters of the state and rendered the waters harmful, detrimental, or injurious to public health, safety, or welfare, to industrial or agricultural uses, or to wild animals, birds, or fish (Section

644.059).

No one testified in favor of the bill.

No one testified in opposition of the bill.