

HCB 17 -- AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Houghton

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "To Introduce" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 8 to 4.

Beginning in school year 2019-20, this bill modifies the law governing school start dates by removing the option that school districts may set an opening date more than 10 calendar days prior to the first Monday in September.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association is required to provide coaches to oversee athletic practices at the Missouri State Fair for any public school student who misses an athletic team practice as a result of participating in activities at the Missouri State Fair.

This bill is the same as HB 1839 and 1826 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that as school start dates have become earlier students who participate in fall sports and agricultural education have had to choose between the two activities. It has hurt more than just those students participating in agricultural education events; it has hurt the tourism industry as well.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Houghton; Silver Dollar City; Michelle Lambeth, Missouri Canoe and Floaters Association; and the Missouri Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.