

HCS HB 1127 -- MISSOURI BOURBON

SPONSOR: Porter

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires products labeled "Missouri Bourbon" or "Missouri Bourbon Whiskey" to be made using corn grown in Missouri; mashed, fermented, distilled, aged, and bottled in Missouri; and aged in oak barrels manufactured in Missouri.

The corn requirement has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020.

This bill is similar to HB 2067 (2018).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will protect Missouri's bourbon industry in a manner similar to other states such as Kentucky. Missouri has ample resources for the production of bourbon and is a major supplier of barrels to other states.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Porter; Don Gosen, Missouri Craft Distillers Guild; Gary Hinegandner, Wood Hat Spirits; Missouri Corn Growers Association; and the Missouri Forest Products Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.