

HCS HB 1586 -- TAX CREDITS FOR URBAN FARMS

SPONSOR: Washington

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 6 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1586.

This bill allows a taxpayer to claim a tax credit against the taxpayer's state tax liability in an amount equal to 50% of the taxpayer's eligible expenses for establishing or improving an urban farm, as defined by the bill.

The amount of the tax credit claimed shall not exceed the amount of the taxpayer's state tax liability in the tax year for which the credit is claimed, the taxpayer shall not be allowed to claim a tax credit under this section in excess of \$5000 for each urban farm. However, any tax credit that cannot be claimed in the tax year the contribution was made may be carried over to the next three succeeding tax years until the full credit is claimed. The total amount of tax credits authorized shall not exceed \$100,000.

The tax credits cannot be transferred, sold, or assigned.

The program will sunset December 31, six years after the effective date.

This bill is similar to HB 571 (2019).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill provides an incentive to grow food in urban areas, where there are not a lot of healthy food grocery stores.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Washington; William "Bill" Coe, Green Acres Urban Farm And Research Project; Adam Saunders, Columbia Center For Urban Agriculture; Operation Food Search; and BJC Healthcare Systems.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they were available for any questions from the committee.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Agriculture.