

HCS HB 1134, 1100 & 1559 -- CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Drafting Number: 2694L.02C

SPONSOR or CO-SPONSORS: Relford, Seigfreid, Whorton, Crump,  
Holand, Hampton

Chairman (for HCS): Relford

Handler: Relford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" x "do pass by consent"

by the Committee on Conservation, State Parks, and Mining by a  
vote of 15 to 0 present:

Use Introduced Summary Verbatim:

Modify above as follows:

New summary as follows:

This substitute allows the Missouri Conservation Commission to establish a cost-share incentive program to promote sustainable forestry practices on tracts of at least 40 acres. The program may reimburse landowners for up to 50% of the costs of forest management activities that do not generate an immediate profit, protect water quality, and ensure efficient use and continued availability of forest resources. No individual may receive more than \$5,000 per year from the program. Lands designated as forest croplands are not eligible.

The substitute also makes it a class A misdemeanor to knowingly release swine to live in a wild state on public or unfenced private land. Free-roaming hogs not conspicuously identified by ear tags may be killed without liability on public lands or on

private lands with the permission of the landowner. State wildlife regulations must be followed during the firearms deer and turkey hunting seasons, and artificial lights may only be used by landowners on their own land.

In addition to the existing class A misdemeanor charge, the substitute also requires anyone convicted of illegally taking or possessing an antlered deer to remit to the Conservation Commission an amount ranging from \$1,500 to \$7,500, depending on the deer's Boone & Crockett score. Resident landowners on their own property and individuals guilty of minor tagging or checking violations are exempt. The commission may allocate up to 25% of the funds for grants that promote anti-poaching activities.

Further, the substitute requires courts to notify the commission if anyone fails to appear at a hearing or pay a fine for taking wildlife illegally. The commission may consider this information in permit suspension, revocation, or denial actions.

Emergency Clause:        or Effective Date of:

HCA(s) -- none

FISCAL NOTE:    Attached:        Not available: x

PROPOSERS:    Supporters say that the bill: (1) creates an important incentive for landowners to develop healthy, productive forests; (2) helps control feral hogs responsible for considerable damage to pastures, crops, and wild lands, and with the potential to spread disease to domestic animals; and (3) reduces the profitability of illegal trafficking in trophy deer

antlers.

Testifying for the bills were Representative Relford; Missouri Forest Products Association; Missouri Department of Conservation; and Conservation Federation of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Testifying against the bill were none

Analyst: