

HCS HB 981 -- AGRICULTURAL DEMONSTRATION AWARDS

SPONSOR: Myers

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Agriculture by a vote of 23 to 0.

Currently, the Department of Agriculture makes demonstration awards to individual farmers who identify, develop, and demonstrate agricultural strategies which reduce the dependency of food and fiber production on nonrenewable inputs. This substitute requires that up to 50% of the demonstration awards be allocated to projects which demonstrate environmentally sound agricultural practices that directly improve water quality or animal waste management. This targeted demonstration award requirement is to be in effect through Fiscal Year 2006.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that water quality and waste handling innovations are critical to the future of agriculture. This program demonstrates agricultural innovations to producers thereby improving waste management practices.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Myers; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Roland Tackett, Legislative Analyst