

HCS HB 1833 -- ANIMALS AND AGRICULTURE

SPONSOR: Munzlinger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute authorizes a sale tax exemption for certain farm products, establishes the Farm to Institution Initiative and the Missouri Animal Care Advisory Committee, and changes the laws regarding the Animal Care Facilities Act.

SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN FARM PRODUCTS

The substitute authorizes a state and local sales and use tax exemption for all sales of farm products sold at a farmers' market within 100 miles of the vendor's farm where the products were grown or produced by any vendor with annual sales of farm products of \$20,000 or less.

FARM TO INSTITUTION INITIATIVE

The Farm to Institution Initiative is established in the Agriculture Business Development Division within the Department of Agriculture to improve public awareness of and access to agricultural products produced or processed by small farmers and small agribusinesses, promote a sustainable Missouri food system, and strengthen the state's economy. The division may coordinate with the departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Health and Senior Services, Corrections, Mental Health, and Economic Development to promote the economic and health benefits of the initiative. In its main provisions, the substitute:

- (1) Requires the division to provide small farmers and small agribusinesses with financial and technical assistance in the branding, marketing, and distribution of locally grown agricultural products;
- (2) Establishes the Farm to Institution Program to reduce obesity, improve nutrition and public health, and strengthen local agricultural economies by increasing access to and promoting the consumption of locally grown foods;
- (3) Establishes the Farm Fresh Schools Program to link schools with locally grown food; develop nutritional awareness, healthy eating habits, and physical activity for the overall wellness of students; emphasize the purchase of locally grown foods by schools; establish specified goals regarding these purchases; and identify existing resources for processing foods locally and funding sources for the expansion of local processing facilities;

(4) Establishes the Farm to Cafeteria Program to build partnerships to reform state institution food procurement policies to facilitate the purchase of locally grown foods by linking local food producers and processors with institutions; emphasize the purchase of locally grown foods by institutions; establish specified goals regarding these purchases; and identify existing resources for processing foods locally and funding sources for the expansion of local processing facilities;

(5) Creates the Farm to Institution Initiative Fund consisting of moneys appropriated for the program, gifts, bequests, or donations to be used solely for the administration of the program; and

(6) Requires grants to be awarded from the fund to eligible participants on a competitive bid process to implement the Farm to Institution Program with the first six grants awarded in counties with a significant agricultural economy based on need.

MISSOURI ANIMAL CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 18-member Missouri Animal Care Advisory Committee is established within the Department of Agriculture.

The committee must review the animal care practices related to poultry, livestock, and licensed dog breeding facilities and, when necessary, make recommendations to the General Assembly. When reviewing these practices, the committee must consider:

(1) The health and husbandry of poultry, livestock, and dogs at licensed breeding facilities;

(2) Generally accepted farm management practices;

(3) Generally accepted veterinary standards and practices;

(4) The economic impact on poultry and livestock farmers, licensed dog breeders, consumers, and the affected sector as a whole; and

(5) Species specific animal care guidelines established by the respective national poultry, livestock, and licensed dog breeders organizations.

The committee must review national species specific animal care guidelines once every five years.

ANIMAL CARE FACILITIES ACT

The substitute:

(1) Removes the exemption for animal shelters from the required annual licensure fee; and

(2) Prohibits the Department of Agriculture from retaining, contracting with, or otherwise utilizing the services of the personnel of any nonprofit organization for the purpose of inspecting or licensing a shelter, pound, kennel, breeder, pet shop, or any animal care facility subject to the provisions of the act.

The provisions regarding the Farm to Institution Initiative will expire six years from the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$237,160 to Unknown in FY 2011, \$158,888 to Unknown in FY 2012, and \$156,644 to Unknown in FY 2013. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$69,000 in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the Missouri Animal Care Advisory Committee will provide a valuable tool for animal owners to continue to use the best animal care practices through recommendations based on scientific, industry, and species specific national standards. Certain non-agriculture entities are promoting animal agricultural concepts that are not in the best interest of consumers or producers. The committee will advise the General Assembly in matters regarding animal ownership and care.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Munzlinger; Missouri Cattlemens Association; Don Nikodin, Missouri Pork Association; Missouri Farm Bureau; and Missouri Federation of Animal Owners.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.