

HB 1945 -- ACTIONS AGAINST VETERINARIANS

SPONSOR: Brown (149)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee of Emerging Issues in Animal Agriculture by a vote of 10 to 1.

Currently, the statute of limitations on filing any action for medical malpractice against specified health care providers is two years. This bill adds veterinarians to the list of providers subject to the statute of limitations.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will provide parity with other health care providers regarding the statute of limitations on the filing of any action for malpractice.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brown (149); Dr. David Craig; and Missouri Veterinary Medical Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that they want veterinarians to be accountable and reliable because a mistake by a veterinarian has the potential to affect a large number of people.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Association Trial Attorneys.