

HCS HB 266 -- VEHICLES HAULING LIVESTOCK OR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

SPONSOR: Guernsey (Smith, 150)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 13 to 1.

Currently, the total gross weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles hauling livestock on U. S. Highway 36 from St. Joseph to U. S. Highway 65 and on U. S. Highway 65 from the Iowa state line to U. S. Highway 36 cannot exceed 85,500 pounds. This substitute removes the specified highways and applies this weight limitation to any vehicle hauling livestock or agricultural products on any highway of this state. The weight limits will not apply to vehicles operated on the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014. Estimated Net Cost on Other State Funds of Unknown greater than \$100,000 in FY 2012, FY 2013, and FY 2014.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will help Missouri be more competitive with other states that have increased weight limits for trucks. It will also be a cost-efficiency measure for livestock producers by allowing them to increase the number of livestock that can be transported at one time by about 10% saving about \$2 per head of livestock.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Smith (150); Phil Clevenger; Missouri Cattlemens Association; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill were concerned that the increased weight limits will create more wear and ruts on state roads because many of these roads, unlike the interstates, do not have a solid base. Missouri also has more than 25,000 more miles of state-maintained roads than other states.

Testifying on the bill was Department of Transportation.