

HB 334 -- Children Working on Family Farms

SPONSOR: Dugger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Agri-Business by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill specifies that a child may perform agriculture work on a farm owned and operated by the child's parent, sibling, grandparent, or sibling of a parent or, if performed by the child with the knowledge and consent of the child's parent, on any family farm or family farm corporation, including operating power driven machinery or motor vehicles; oiling, cleaning, maintaining, or washing machinery; using ladders, scaffolding, or other substitute; and performing occupations involving exposure to any toxic or hazardous chemicals. A child may not be allowed to engage in other activities prohibited in Section 294.040, RSMo.

A child working on a family farm may do so without obtaining a work certificate and is not subject to specified limitations on the hours that he or she may work.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill clarifies the child labor laws relating to children working on family farms. Learning the trade of agriculture takes a lifetime of hands-on learning. It is important for children to begin to learn about agriculture at a young age and the clarifications to the child labor laws will ensure that children can still begin to learn about the trade at a young age.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dugger; Missouri Pet Breeders Association; Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Pork Association; Missouri Attorney General's Office; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Chuck Massengill, Missouri Cattlemens Association; Missouri Family Network; and CNS Corporation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.