

HCS HB 586 -- RODEOS

SPONSOR: Schieffer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 14 to 0.

This substitute guarantees the right to conduct and participate in rodeos and prohibits any law, ordinance, or rule restricting the conducting of or participating in rodeos in Missouri, except the protections under Chapter 267, RSMo, regarding diseased animals as determined by the State Veterinarian and any reasonable restrictions regarding time, place, and manner consistent with other similar events. Promoters of rodeos have the authority to establish fees and set rules for their events.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that rodeos are an important part of Missouri's economy and efforts to stop rodeos are becoming more aggressive. The bill protects a person's right to conduct or participate in a rodeo.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schieffer; Missouri Federation of Animal Owners; Jay Russell; Shea Russell; and Randy Russell.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill expressed concerns that some unsanctioned rodeos included events that promote animal cruelty and that clarification was needed to ensure that the State Veterinarian was able to perform his duties regarding rodeo stock.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation; and Department of Agriculture.