

HB 1653 -- TAMPERING WITH FARM EQUIPMENT

SPONSOR: McDaniel

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Civil and Criminal Proceedings by a vote of 8 to 3.

This bill specifies that an individual commits the offense of tampering with farm equipment if he or she knowingly and without authorization or without reasonable grounds to believe that he or she has authorization defaces, marks, disturbs, or vandalizes any farm equipment owned by another, modifies or destroys any component necessary to the operation of any farm equipment owned by another, or accesses and relocates any farm equipment owned by another.

Tampering with farm equipment is a class A misdemeanor unless the offense causes pecuniary loss of more than \$1,000, in which case it is a class D felony if committed before January 1, 2017 and a class E felony if committed on or after January 1, 2017.

This bill is the same as HB 1129 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill is necessary to fully prosecute those individuals who tamper with your farm equipment while they are trying to steal the valuable parts of it. Currently, it would be prosecuted as a misdemeanor or felony, depending on the value of the property that is damaged.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McDaniel; Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Corn Growers Association; and Missouri Soybean Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.