

HCS HB 662 -- MISUSE OF HERBICIDES (Rone)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy

The bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture, if it determines that any individual has knowingly applied a herbicide to a crop for which the herbicide was not labeled for use, to assess a civil penalty of up to \$1000 per applied acre. If an individual is a chronic violator, the department has the authority to assess a civil penalty of up to \$2000 per applied acre.

During an active complaint investigation, the department may subpoena witnesses and compel the production of certain records relating to an individual's application of any herbicide. If the individual refuses to submit the records, the department may assess a civil penalty of up to \$1000 per applied acre.

Any individual who is penalized will be liable to the department for any reasonable costs associated with the department's testing of fields or personal property affected by the herbicide use. Any penalty collected will be remitted to the school district in which the violation occurred. The department, after inquiry and opportunity for a hearing, may deny, suspend, revoke, or modify the provisions of any license, permit, or certification issued under the Missouri Pesticides Use Act.

This bill contains an emergency clause.