

SCS HCS HB 662 -- MISUSE OF HERBICIDES

The bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture, if it determines that any person has knowingly used a herbicide for a crop for which the herbicide was not labeled for use, to assess a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation. If a person is a chronic violator, the department has the authority to assess a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per violation.

During an active complaint investigation, the department may subpoena witnesses and compel the production of certain records relating to a person's application of any herbicide. If the person refuses to submit the records, the department may assess a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.

Any person who is penalized will be liable to the department for any reasonable costs associated with the department's investigation. 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.