

HCS HB 959 -- ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES

SPONSOR: Cookson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill allows the use of all-terrain vehicles and utility vehicles within 20 miles of agricultural property being used by the vehicle owner for agricultural and industrial purposes. Such vehicles may also be used on two-lane highways if they are capable of speeds of 45 miles per hour or greater. Current law requiring a speed limit of 30 miles per hour for all terrain vehicles and 45 miles per hour for utility vehicles when these vehicles are not on any type of highway is not changed by the bill. The bill requires all-terrain vehicle users to obtain proof of financial responsibility or an insurance policy as specified in the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that it is necessary to regulate the growing use of all-terrain and utility vehicles on highways. The bill will allow their reasonable use for agricultural purposes, but also requires a reasonable speed capability for highway use.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Cookson.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that local governments should retain authority to ban the use of such vehicles within city limits and that insurance issues must be addressed.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Republican Attorneys for Civil Justice.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they will provide information to help amend the bill.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Department of Transportation.