

HB 684 -- ANIMAL TRESPASS

SPONSOR: Love

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 15 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 6 to 3.

Currently, a person is guilty of animal trespass if a person with ownership or custody of an animal fails to provide adequate control of the animal for a period of 12 hours or more. This bill changes the crime to livestock trespass.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that when the offense of animal trespass was passed in 2012, it was written too broadly. This bill would clarify that the law only applies to livestock and not other domestic animals.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Love and the Missouri Cattlemen's Association.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill does not address what laws would apply to other domestic animals whose owners fail to provide adequate control of the animal.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say they would like to see retrieval of sporting dogs addressed in the bill.

Testifying on the bill was the Sporting Dog Association of Missouri.