

HCS HB 2763 -- PESTICIDES

SPONSOR: Diehl

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 13 to 6.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2763.

This bill specifies that a pesticide registered by certain Federal agencies or consistent with certain Federal carcinogenicity classification of pesticide satisfies any warning label requirement regarding health or safety or any other provision of current law.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that glyphosate herbicides are one of the most extensively tested products in the nation. Regulatory testing in the United States and other countries has shown that these herbicides are not carcinogenic. When farmers and others use the pesticides in the manner prescribed by the label, the chemical is safe and effective. By allowing each state to require differing information on the label, it will create uncertainty, especially for farmers living near the state's border. This bill will not shield companies from liability if the product is harmful.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Diehl; Associated Industries of Missouri; Richard J Norris, PHD, Missouri Biotechnology Association; Missouri Pork Association; Missouri Farm Bureau; Bill Reeves, Bayer Corp Science; Brian Lehman, Missouri Corn Growers Association; Catherine Hanaway, Husch Blackwell Representing Bayer; Jason Weirich, MFA Inc; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Randall Rodgers; Missouri Soybean Association; Missouri Cattlemans Association; and Shelby J Neill.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill gives pesticide companies immunity from the harm they cause Missourians. Recently, a jury in Cole County found that Round Up harmed three plaintiffs. In addition, the health effect studies are not conducted by a governmental agency; many times, the studies are conducted by the pesticides company and submitted to the governmental agency.

Testifying in person against the bill were Dana Ripper; Ethan Duke; and Matt Clement.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.