

HB 2882 -5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/8, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides cause of action against patent holder of genetically engineered organism if organism is present on land without permission.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-5 Requires Department of Agriculture to adopt rules establishing practices that growers of genetically engineered crop may use to reduce the risk of an unintentional transfer to other agricultural crops. Requires finder of fact to consider compliance or noncompliance with rules in determining whether contamination was foreseeable.

BACKGROUND:

A genetically modified organism (GMO) is an organism that has some genetic changes produced through laboratory techniques, including manipulation of genetic material or introduction of modified genetic material into the organism. GMO crops may be produced to be resistant to pesticides and herbicides, to combat disease and parasites, or to increase nutritional value. Several countries ban producing or importing GMO crops due to the possibility of accidental contamination of standard crops with GMO products.

House Bill 2882 creates an avenue for a person to sue the patent holder of a GMO product if the GMO is found on land without permission.