

SUBJECT: Labeling sorghum seed containing tannin

COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Swinford, McReynolds, B. Brown, Christian, Green, Hardcastle, Hupp, C. Jones

0 nays

1 absent — Crownover

WITNESSES: None

BACKGROUND: Tannin is a brown, bitter-tasting pigment in sorghum grain. Some sorghum grain may contain high amounts of tannin, which can decrease the loss of crops to birds. Grain with high tannin content is less desirable to feed to cattle and therefore less valuable.

DIGEST: HB 2432 would amend the Agriculture Code to add a labeling requirement for sorghum seed containing tannin. Each container of such sorghum that was sold or offered for sale would have to bear a written or printed label in English: “This sorghum seed will produce seed that contains tannin. This seed may be less valuable than other sorghum and may be rejected by buyers of grain.”

This bill would take effect September 1, 1999, and would apply only to sorghum seed containers sold or offered for sale on or after that date.