

**For immediate release:**

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**Omnibus Crimes Bill Passes in both Chambers**

(Columbia, MO) – Both the Missouri Senate and the House have passed the Omnibus Crimes Bill. Passed with three hours of the session left, this bill enforces tightening restrictions on those who are involved in cattle theft. As one of the main focuses of MCA during this legislative session, we are very excited to see it pass with three hours left in the session. This bill will raise the penalty for cattle theft from a class C to a class B felony, which requires a sentence of 5-15 years in prison. It will also require the convicted persons to serve a minimum of 80% of their sentence.

Steve Willard, president of Missouri Cattlemen's Association, said, "I applaud the rural legislators for recognizing the impact of cattle theft on our state and for taking initiative to fight against those who are involved in the crime."

Under this bill, veterinarians must open any record of the livestock to be inspected by the department of agriculture to determine the origin and destination of that animal.

Cattle theft has become a large problem in Missouri. Since 2004, over 3,300 head of cattle have been stolen and over \$1.2 million in property, panels, 4 wheelers, trucks, trailers, and cattle have been stolen.

**Horse Slaughter Plants**

This resolution opens the door for Missouri to process unwanted horses. This resolution has passed both chambers and will go to Congress to reestablish funding for federal inspection for horse slaughter plants.

"It is a relief to see our top priorities passed in both houses," Willard said.

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The Missouri Cattlemen's Association was initiated in 1911 and is dedicated to improving profitability of Missouri's cattle industry. MCA will work tirelessly to promote, preserve and protect the future of our great cattle industry and the people who depend on us. To join, contact MCA at 573-499-9162 or at [www.mocattle.com](http://www.mocattle.com).